

THE TIMES



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FRIDAY
30p
FREE
CLASSIFIED
WEEKEND

Wagner for thugs
RICHARD MORRISON
page 34

Summer's sexiest flat shoes
page 20

Everything you wanted to know about... but were afraid to ask

FRIDAY
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WEEKEND

Rates rise put off as Brown admits slowdown

By Janet Bush, Philip Webster and Polly Newton

HOMEOWNERS, industry and exporters reacted with relief yesterday as the Bank of England drew back from a fresh rise in interest rates.

Its nine-member Monetary Policy Committee confounded the City and Westminster by deciding — at least for the time being — against adding to the six rate rises since the General Election which have put about £60 a month on a £60,000 mortgage.

The move came as Gordon Brown acknowledged for the first time that there had been a "necessary slow-down of the economy".

After the surprise that greeted the MPC's decision to put rates up to 7.5 per cent last month, few are prepared to bet against rates rising in August or September.

Even as yesterday's news sunk in, the money markets were still predicting another 0.25 per cent rise in rates before the end of this year.

And with inflation running at 3.2 per cent, well above the Government's 2.5 per cent target, the Chancellor said that unsustainable wage increases would lead to pressure on interest rates and inflation.

"I think the Bank of England is now saying that people have got to watch wage responsibility in the economy," Mr Brown said. "That is a message from the boardroom outwards and I will not shrink from making that message. The choice that people have is whether to take wage rises, or to lead to the prospect of there being interest rate rises."

The Chancellor swept aside

claims that the country was heading for recession, pointing to Treasury forecasts of 2 per cent growth this year. The tough decisions made by Labour soon after they took power had led to "a necessary slow-down of the economy" to get back Britain on track for sustainable growth, he said.

But Mr Clarke, speaking at a Press Gallery lunch, criticised Eddie George, the Governor, and the MPC. "The way you cause bust is that you carry on tightening policy when the economy is already going down."

Mr Clarke said that Mr Brown was "now making a complete mess of public spending". The Chancellor's decision to invite bids from ministers for their departmental budgets over the next three years, for the purposes of the Comprehensive Spending Review, had left him facing "a very sharp increase indeed" in Government expenditure.

Paul Mortimer-Lee, economist with Banque Paribas, accused the MPC of having all the consistency of a World Cup referee. "The Monetary Policy Committee pulled out of the tackle this month after being given a yellow card by the press for last month's hike. However, we don't think the Bank is completely out of the game."

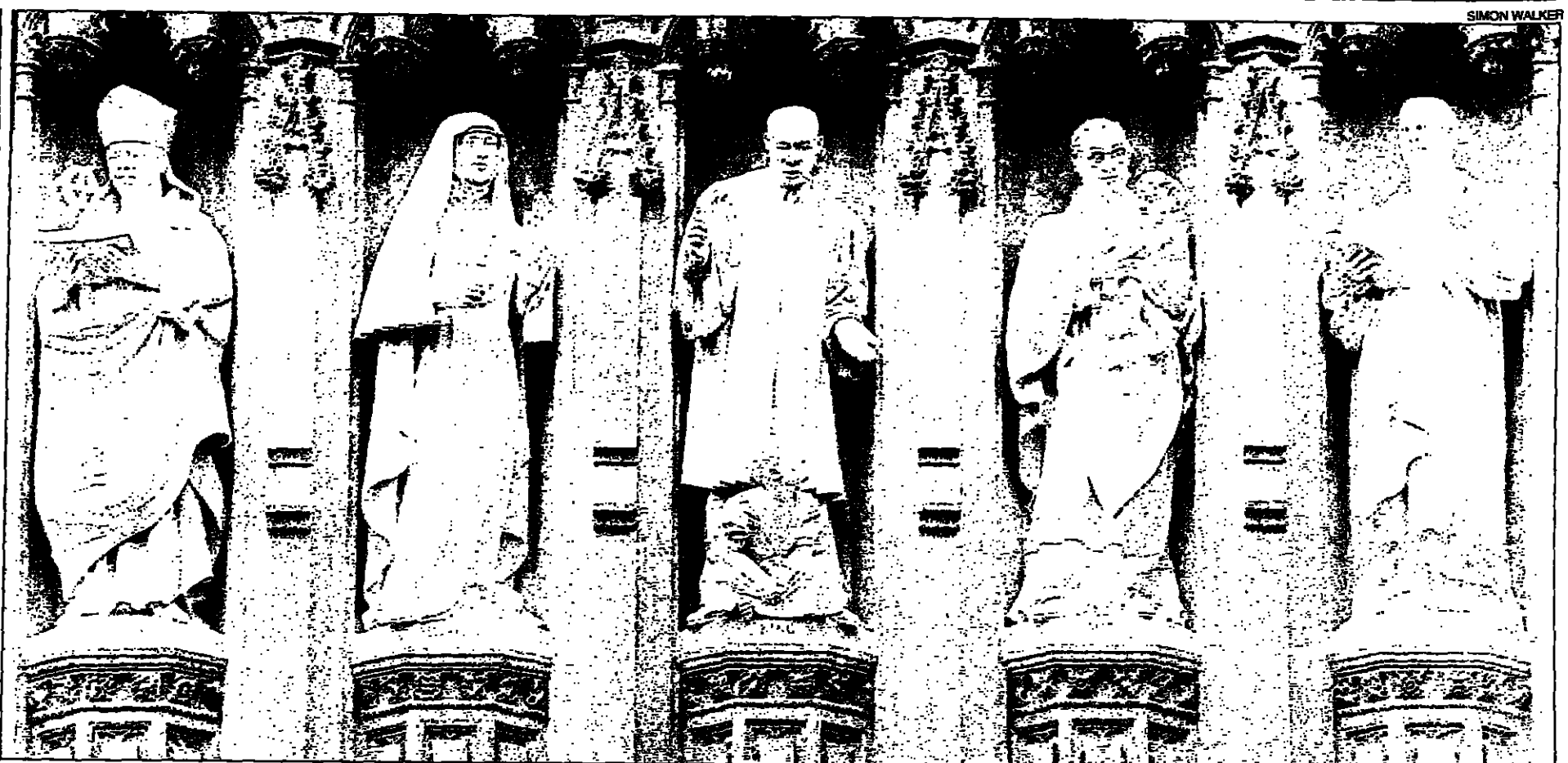
Although there was a broad welcome from industry and unions, some argued that confidence will remain in the doldrums until the Bank makes it clear that June's rise in interest rates was the last.

The Engineering Employers' Federation said: "We would urge the MPC as soon as possible to signal that interest rates have peaked and that the next move will be downwards." Ken Jackson, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "The recession will continue until the Bank ends its war of attrition against manufacturing industry."

Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, said: "The last increase was a mistake, so we are very relieved that they haven't gone up again. The economy looks quite weak and even the services side is slowing."

Sterling actually strengthened yesterday against the mark to close at DM2.9817. The FTSE 100 index closed 39.9 points lower at 5,969.7.

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The roll call of martyrs at Westminster Abbey from left: Janani Lurum, St Elizabeth of Russia, Martin Luther King, Oscar Romero and Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Westminster Abbey honours modern martyrs

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

RELATIVES of ten modern Christian martyrs looked on as the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, unveiled statues of them on the west front of Westminster Abbey yesterday.

The Duke of Edinburgh, great-nephew of St Elizabeth of Russia, one of those commemorated, was among the families and friends of the 20th-century martyrs who were remembered at a 40-minute service in the nave of the abbey.

The martyrs, with figures depicting truth, justice, mercy and peace below them, fill niches in the West Front which were designed to take



Lucian Tapiedi



Esther John



Wang Zhiming



Manche Masekola



Maximilian Kolbe

statues but were never filled. Designed in traditional figurative style by Tim Crawley and carved from French Richemont limestone, they are unmistakably new, yet fit

in so well with the rest of the abbey they could almost have been there for centuries.

The roll call of martyrs began with Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia, killed by

the Bolsheviks in 1918. It continued with Manche Masekola, an Anglican killed by her animist parents in 1928; Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan from Poland

killed by the Nazis in 1941; Lucian Tapiedi of Papua New Guinea, killed during the Japanese invasion in 1942; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran pastor killed

by the Nazis in 1945; Esther John, of Pakistan, a Presbyterian evangelist allegedly killed by a Muslim fanatic in 1960; America's Martin Luther King, the Baptist pastor and civil rights campaigner assassinated in 1968; Wang Zhiming, of China, a pastor killed in the Cultural Revolution in 1972; Janani Lurum of Uganda, the Anglican Archbishop murdered in 1977 during the military dictatorship of Idi Amin, and Oscar Romero, of El Salvador, the Roman Catholic Archbishop gunned down while saying Mass in 1980.

They were all chosen because of their "openness to death for the glory of Christ".

Martyrs' lives, page 4

Airport chaos for Hong Kong

Chaos continued to plague Hong Kong's new airport with arriving passengers stranded for hours and cargo worth millions of pounds left to rot. The £12 billion airport, opened by President Jiang Zemin a week ago, has become a public relations nightmare with officials accused of rushing the opening. Page 18

Adviser's trust

Roger Liddle, the Downing Street adviser at the centre of the cash-for-access controversy placed £200,000 worth of shares in a blind trust run by his next door neighbour Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, alleged. Page 2

Legal harvest

An organic vegetable farmer claims the Government allowed genetically engineered maize to be grown near his sweetcorn crop, the High Court heard. He sought leave to appeal against a decision made by the Environment Secretary, not to halt seed trials near his Devon farm. Page 11

Countdown to confrontation at Drumcree as talks fail

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

NORTHERN Ireland lurched closer to disaster yesterday when a 90-minute Downing Street meeting between Tony Blair and Orange Order leaders ended with no sign of a resolution to the Drumcree confrontation.

The Prime Minister and the four Orangemen agreed to stay in contact, but the meeting was seen as one of the last chances of achieving a breakthrough before the expected arrival of tens of thousands of Orangemen in Drumcree this July 12 weekend.

Downing Street acknowledged the situation was "very serious". In Belfast David Trimble, the province's First Minister, issued a warning of an "awesome prospect" unless the impasse was resolved within the next 24 hours.

"We are all very conscious of the fact that time is running out and that the weekend carries with it very grave risks for society in Northern Ireland," he said, and implored

people to "keep calm and keep the peace".

Loyalist passions could be further inflamed this morning when a Belfast High Court judge rules on the Parades Commission's decision to allow another contentious Orange Order parade along Belfast's Lower Ormeau Road. Nationalist plaintiffs yesterday argued that the decision should be overturned because it was based on political expediency given the Drumcree situation.

David McNarry, a member of the Order's strategy committee, said Orangemen and their supporters could "paralyse this country in a matter of hours" if the Drumcree parade was not allowed to complete its traditional route down the nationalist Garvaghy Road.

Other Orange Order leaders disowned his statement, saying they wanted peaceful protests only, but the toll continued to mount after a

fourth night of province-wide violence on Wednesday. By yesterday morning there had been 501 attacks on members of the security forces, 125 arrests, 509 petrol-bombing incidents, 154 hijackings, 317 vehicles damaged and 50 police officers injured. Security sources say individual members of the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association have been involved. Mr Trimble blamed "elements within society who will take advantage of the quite understandable protest the Orange Order have organised in order to create mayhem".

Archbishop Robin Eames, Primate of the Protestant Church of Ireland, begged for compromise last night, saying that without a solution "we will face a disaster in which everyone of us will be the loser. In God's name let us find reason before it is too late".

Terrorists in talks, page 6

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Beckham gives Nike advert a red card

By Adrian Lee

THE sports company, Nike, yesterday withdrew newspaper advertisements featuring David Beckham's sending off in the World Cup after objections from the England footballer's lawyers.

"Remember we all make mistakes. Remember he's only 23. Remember how we felt when he wasn't in the team. Remember his free kick against Colombia. And most of all remember that in four years time we want him in an

England shirt scoring again. Roll on 2002," the advertisement was to read.

Beckham is not a Nike client, nor does he wear the company's boots. He has a £3.5 million contract with their chief rival, Adidas.

It might be argued that Nike was hijacking Beckham's name and putting their boot in by drawing attention to a matter he will spend the rest of his career trying to put behind him. His lawyers apparently took that view. Nike, who were to include a

disclaimer that Beckham was not one of their clients, argued in the advertisement that their intentions were honourable.

"David Beckham is a sportsman and we above all else are a sports company. And if we can come out and say something positive about him, maybe his critics can," the advert was to read.

Yesterday Nike said it had decided to withdraw the campaign — the latest shot in its war with Adidas — on "production and timing issues". Nike is renowned for its

elaborate publicity stunts which have upstaged its rival.

The companies are struggling for domination of the lucrative football boot and leisurewear market. Adidas paid £20 million to become an official sponsor of the World Cup.

Beckham was shown the red card against Argentina for kicking out at an opponent, provoking a hostile reception from fans who blamed him for England's exit.

World Cup, pages 48, 52



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Bogged-down ministers buoyed up by treacherous phrases

THE age of the catchphrase is upon us. Picking his way across new Labour's philosophical swamp, a landscape devoid of firm ideas or premises you can rest upon, a minister leaps inelegantly from catchphrase to catchphrase, treating each cliché like a clump of reeds a group of familiar words which may bear a little weight for a little while — until, as the cliché sinks, he spots another catchphrase towards which his argument can lurch.

It must be nervously exhausting, for the catchphrases are rooted only in mud. Linger too long and the cliché goes under. Ministers have deserted the "tough on crime" formula because people laugh, now. Some ministers are growing wary of "no return to Tory boom and bust" as the phrase quivers ominously beneath them. "Third way" and "stakeholder" are looking shaky.

Only Tony Blair, that most nervous of philosophical hikers, still lunges for "the many not the few" when mud reaches his ankles. And even he has abandoned "the people's" this and "the people's" that.

Education (Education, Education) and Employment is model terrain through which to track the on-message ministerial backpacker. There are no new ideas in education, and the old ones — faith in the comprehensive system on the one hand, 11-plus or assisted places on the other — are out of bounds to the cautiously modern minister.

As for employment, "on-cycle" is off-limits, yet socialist-style training programmes are suspect. You might therefore expect a heavy reliance on cliché.

You would be right. Within minutes, Andrew Smith, an on-message but insecure minister, stumbled on to "no return to boom and bust", a *propos* of almost nothing. Next, a nice lady minister, Estelle Morris, lunged (on morality in schools) for "shared values", returning

exchange over "beacon schools". Mr Byers bounds on to his reed-clumps surefootedly. "Inherited from the previous Government" (a favourite) was rested upon twice: "fair and transparent" thrice: "Comprehensive Spending Review" four times; and "step-by-step" (a ministerial favourite as, like "Comprehensive Spending Review", it explains why nothing much has happened) once. His colleague Alan Howarth managed "family-friendly" four times. Then Andrew Smith returned

to the dispatch box with "gateway services" (on a question about the "New Deal" in which "pathfinder areas" also came up). But what happens when cliché worlds collide? This occurred near the end of the session, as a Tory spokesman, Theresa May, clashed with a Labour minister (for "lifelong learning"), Kim Howells. Attacking Mrs May made a dive for a hoary old Tory favourite "the dead hand of Socialism" which she adapted to "the dead hand of centralisation". A former socialist, Mr Howells was obliged to share this unfamiliar reed-bed with Mrs May. He found navigation difficult. "We're not putting dead hands on to anything," he protested. "We're interested in tearing off dead hands". Failure of shared values here, Kim. Stuck to family-friendly pathfinder areas, proceeding step-by-step, via the gateway services for the many not the few, until you reach a Comprehensive Spending Review. And mind the beacons. It's the third way!



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Neighbour runs lobbyist's blind trust, say Tories

BY NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Downing Street adviser at the centre of the cash-for-access controversy placed £260,000 worth of shares in a blind trust run by his next door neighbour. Conservatives said last night.

In an attempt to step up the pressure on the Government, Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, published evidence that Roger Liddle handed over his shares in the lobbying company at the centre of the row to Matthew Oakeshott, an old friend from Oxford.

The Shadow Chancellor said: "This is not so much a blind trust as a cronies' trust. A proper blind trust is run at arm's length. But we are being asked to believe that this arm's length transaction was conducted by his crony next door without there ever being any discussion."

Mr Maude wrote to Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, demanding an investigation into the new evidence which the Conservatives uncovered from a search at Companies House.

Mr Oakeshott, who lives next door to Mr Liddle in Kennington, southeast London, confirmed last night that he managed his friend's shares. The City investment manager, who is a former

political adviser to Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, said: "I can confirm that it is correct, that his shares were transferred to me to hold on his behalf. I am an investment manager."

Mr Liddle, 51, and Mr Oakeshott met at Oxford in the 1960s where they became close friends and political allies. They both joined the SDP and stood for the party in the 1983 general election. Mr Oakeshott has since concentrated on his City career.

Downing Street said last night that the Cabinet Office would review the arrangements Mr Liddle made for the blind trust after he was appointed to the Downing Street Policy Unit.

A spokesman said: "The blind trust arrangement was cleared by the Cabinet Office at the time, although obviously in the light of Mr Maude's letter we will want to review all the matters relating to this issue."

Mr Liddle faced embarrassment at the weekend when *The Observer* quoted him as saying that he would help clients of his friend and lobbyist Derek Draper meet Government officials. Mr Draper was employed by GPC Market Access, a lobbying firm which bought Mr Liddle's firm, Prima Europe Ltd, for

£1.8 million in February. Mr Liddle, who made £260,000 out of the sale, claimed earlier this week that he had no financial interest in the new business. He was also not involved in the sale because his shares in Prima Europe were placed in the blind trust.

Mr Maude last night challenged Mr Liddle's claims. In his letter to Sir Richard, Mr Maude said that the £1.8 million paid for Mr Liddle's old company depended on future profits. The Shadow Chancellor claimed that this explained why Mr Liddle was apparently so keen to help Mr Draper. "Each of these points raises serious questions about the extent to which Mr Liddle has severed his links with his former company."

Mr Liddle's solicitors wrote to Sir Richard last night to challenge Mr Maude's claims. Marcus Rutherford said Mr Liddle followed Cabinet Office advice in placing the shares in a blind trust.

He added that Matthew Oakeshott was instructed to act without reference to Mr Liddle, which meant that the Downing Street adviser "had no subsequent knowledge of issues concerning the shareholding". Mr Oakeshott, he said, was a "man of impeccable reputation".



Liddle lives next to man who runs what Tories claim is a "cronies" trust

Territorials will wait to know if they are needed

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

THOUSANDS of volunteer soldiers in the Territorial Army will have to wait three months before they discover whether they are to be discharged as part of the Government's 30 per cent cut in the part-time force.

John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, said he wanted to consult the TA and other reserve forces before announcing which units were to be cut. But he confirmed that the hardest hit would be the TA's infantry battalions and yeomanry (armoured) regiments.

Some of the TA members who are to lose their army jobs will have the chance to switch to specialist areas, such as transport, communications and logistics, which will now become the priority posts within the "Terris". Others could even move to the Naval and RAF Reserves.

However, TA sources said yesterday that many of the Territorials in the infantry and yeomanry regiments would have to be discharged. Commanding officers have been told by the Ministry of Defence to treat the issue of discharging people "with great care".

Under proposals circulating in the early stages of the strategic defence review when it was agreed that the TA should be cut from 57,000 to around 40,000, it was suggested that the 36 TA infantry battalions should be cut to five, and the five yeomanry

regiments to be reduced to just half a squadron — 75 officers and men.

Although Dr Reid gave no details yesterday of what he had in mind, he said the infantry and yeomanry had to be cut because they had been established in order to join the regulars in fighting off a Russian invasion in Europe.

Since the threat from the Russians had vanished, there was no longer a role for most of the TA infantry and yeomanry units, although not all would have to be discharged.

Dr Reid said that if he had considered the TA's future purely on the basis of whether they were still needed to fight the Russians, he would have had to cut the organisation down to just 7,000. "In fact I've saved the TA," he said.

He promised that the 40,000 who will be kept on would have a more relevant and effective role and would be more closely integrated into the regular Army. There would be more jobs in the Defence Medical Services and other support areas. "I want to take the TA off the substitutes' bench and put them on the playing fields."

□ The Army Cadet Force will be given £1 million from the defence review, and encouraged to seek lottery money and local sponsorship to increase its strength from 40,000 to 58,000 over five years. A recruitment campaign will target inner-city youngsters.

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Buses to get priority in expansion of M25

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT is planning to demand that extra lanes added to the M25 motorway are used only by buses, coaches and, ultimately, cars carrying passengers.

The radical move to bar driver-only cars from additional lanes is intended to remove some of the controversy from any decision to turn sections of London's orbital motorway into 10 and 12-lane carriageways.

Mr Prescott has been told by officials that, with up to 200,000 vehicles a day using the most congested stretch of motorway in Europe, near Heathrow airport, there is no option but to increase the number of lanes. But he has insisted that officials draw up plans to set aside lanes specifically for buses, with the intention of speeding up journeys, particularly between Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

He is also keen that officials prepare plans to allow vehicles with more than one passenger to have access to the least congested lane, to encourage more car-sharing. The Deputy Prime Minister is about to make the final decision on widening the 12-mile stretch, a move heavily opposed by environmentalists, and denounced as "motorway madness" by the Labour Party while it was in opposition.

He has been under intense pressure from business leaders to help relieve congestion

but senior colleagues say that he is adamant that a compromise can be found.

Early results of schemes in Britain suggest that bus and "car priority" lanes can save an estimated 10 minutes per mile. Mr Prescott has been impressed by results from the first motorway bus lane in Britain, on a spur from the M4 at Heathrow, which has cut down car traffic and is thought to have reduced journey times on a three-quarter mile stretch by 10 minutes. The £1 million Heathrow bus lane, installed by airport operator BAA, has carried more than 11million passengers to the airport in its first eleven months.

A separate trial in Leeds has set aside a lane that can be used only by vehicles carrying two or more people and early findings suggest an increased

number of multiple-occupant vehicles on the mile-long stretch of A647 Bradford road.

Enforcement of a dedicated bus lane on a motorway is seen as a potential problem, because of the difficulties of stopping motorists. However, cameras can be used to take photographs of offending vehicles, with fixed penalties being imposed on drivers.

Checking on the number of passengers in a car poses further problems, although the Heathrow scheme has found its so-called "wall of shame" successful in persuading motorists to leave the bus lane. Electronic message signs flash up the registration number of cars that have ventured into the bus lane, and advise them to rejoin other traffic. "People do respond to guidance as well as enforcement," said a spokesman for BAA.

Widening of the M25 is by far the most controversial of some 124 road schemes that are under review by Mr Prescott. A final decision is expected to be taken next week, with an announcement due by the end of the month.

Opponents of the extra lanes said last night that the dedicated lanes would not match up to the Government's stated intention of reducing road traffic. Chris Fisher said: "This is no more than window dressing to disguise the fact that the Government has given in to the road lobby."



Prescott: compromise for environment

Traffic cure hits gridlock

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A TRAFFIC measure billed as the answer to traffic gridlock has become the curse of all lone American drivers. Rather than solve the problems of congestion, the high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane has made it worse. During rush hours, the lanes may be used only by cars carrying extra passengers.

Around Washington DC,

roads but arguments still continue about the efficacy of the special lane.

Drivers unable to persuade fellow suburbanites to become commuter teams are either forced to sit in backed up traffic or take the risk of a heavy fine and penalty points for travelling solo.

There has been the question of whether children count as passengers and, most famously, numerous incidents of drivers buying blow up dolls

in the number of Americans who "car pool", transport officials are still planning to increase the number of miles devoted to the HOV around urban centres.

Heavy enforcement by police often means that HOV lanes become choked as cars are stopped in traffic. In Los Angeles, the most congested city in the United States, a toll system has been considered to allow passenger-less drivers entry to the HOV lane for a

Former MP says sorry in court

A FORMER Tory MP apologised to the Birmingham Six at the High Court in London yesterday after claiming in an interview that they were guilty although they had been cleared by the Court of Appeal.

David Evans, who lost his Wehyn Hatfield seat at the last election, also paid an undisclosed "appropriate" sum to the Six to settle a libel action over controversial statements he made to pupils at Stanborough School, Wehyn, Hertfordshire, last year.

The Six served 16 years in jail after being wrongfully convicted in 1975 of the murder of 21 people who died after bombs exploded in public houses in Birmingham. The Court of Appeal quashed their convictions in 1991.

Benedict Birnberg, a solicitor representing the Six, told Mr Justice Poplewell that during an interview at the school Mr Evans "expressed the view that the plaintiffs were guilty of the Birmingham pub bombings". During the interview, he said, Mr Evans added: "You think the Birmingham Six hadn't killed hundreds before they caught them?"

Mr Birnberg said Mr Evans "unreservedly retracts the allegations he made and wishes to state that he accepts as proper the verdict of the Court of Appeal quashing the plaintiffs' convictions for the Birmingham murders. The defendant has undertaken to the court that he will not repeat the allegations complained of nor make any similar allegations."

CORRECTIONS

The Princess Royal, contrary to a report on July 7, was not cautioned by police for speeding on the M1 motorway last November.

The illustration on page three yesterday was from *The Murren of the World* trans-

Soap St
libel co

Fast
pen

you've got a notebook
Because the floppy
and most importantly
you buy one before

Soap star loses libel costs fight

By RUSSELL JENKINS

BILL ROACHE, the *Coronation Street* actor, faces a £200,000 legal bill after losing a court battle to sue the solicitors Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners over advice about the dangers of pursuing a libel case.

The actor, who plays Ken Barlow in the Granada Television series, claimed that the solicitors had failed to advise him fully about the financial risks of pressing on with his case against *The Sun*, which had described him as boring.

He had won that case when the jury awarded him £50,000 but, because it was the same amount as the newspaper had offered to settle out of court, the actor had to pay the bulk of the costs for both sides.

Mr Justice Newman, at the High Court sitting in Manchester, rejected Mr Roache's claim that it was negligent advice by Peter Carter-Ruck that encouraged him to go on with the case.

After the judgment, which took two hours to deliver, Mr Roache, 65, spoke of his disappointment that his "eight-year nightmare" had ended in an enormous financial burden. A further hearing will be held to decide the costs of the seven-day hearing, but it could add as much as £80,000 to Mr Roache's already substantial legal bill.

In 1990 when *The Sun* described him as "boring" and, more damagingly, that he was hated by other members of the cast, he sought redress in the



Roache had been very unlucky, said judge

courts. He won the case but was liable for costs.

Mr Roache alleged that Carter-Ruck should have warned him in detail about the risks of pressing on with the case once the newspaper had made its offer. He said that if he had understood the "tremendous risks" he would have accepted the offer.

He told the court earlier: "I would have taken it, with the honour of my reputation reinstated." However, Thomas Shields, QC, a member of Mr Roache's legal team during the libel trial, said that the possibility of taking the £50,000 had been discussed.

He told the court: "I will always remember the discussion. I think Mrs Roache said to Mr Roache that he was a gambler in golf and that he goes for his shots. I think he might have exchanged words or looks with his wife and he was going to go for it."

"I did not say so, but the fact

he wanted to go on and was taking the risk led me to think he regarded his claim as worth into six figures."

Mr Justice Newman, in his judgment, said he did not regard Mr Roache, who then earned £160,000 a year, as greedy but his decision was dictated by hopes of achieving a higher sum.

He said the actor had been told there was a 60-40 per cent chance of getting a higher figure and went ahead with the action, prepared to accept the 40 per cent risk of a smaller settlement. Nevertheless, Mr Roache was "very unlucky".

The judge added: "At the material time the unpredictability of the level of awards from juries was great, and the likelihood of an award far in excess of that which a libel lawyer may consider to be reasonable was always a prospect. He took the view the £50,000 was not reasonable. He did not go on because he was greedy, nor did he go on against the advice of his legal team. Quite naturally, he left the publishers should be hurt by an award."

Mr Roache, who lives in Wilmslow, Cheshire, was not at court to hear the judgment.

He was in the Granada Studios a few hundred yards away from the court during an episode of *Coronation Street* during the judgment, said his only consolation had been "the love and support of my family, my friends, my colleagues on *Coronation Street* and my employers at Granada."



A little winner: The Olympic athlete Sally Gunnell took her baby Finley to the opening of the London Heathrow Youth Games at Crystal Palace yesterday

Judge shocks noisy prisoner into silence

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

A WOMAN judge in California has astonished onlookers by ordering the use of a 50,000-volt stun belt on a prisoner in her courtroom who would not stop talking.

Ronnie Hawkins, who faces a possible life sentence for petty theft under the state's "three strikes" law, was acting as his own defence lawyer when Judge Joan Comparet-Cassini lost patience with him for repeatedly interrupting her at a hearing in Long Beach last week.

After warning him three times to be quiet, the judge ordered court bailiffs to "zap" Mr Hawkins by activating a battery-powered belt he was already wearing because of a reputation for disruptive behaviour. Witnesses said he stiffened and grimaced as the electric current passed through his body for eight seconds.

One lawyer watching called the episode "outrageous". Another told yesterday's *Los Angeles Times*: "It was horrible, horrible. It would be the equivalent of saying, 'He's talking too much, and walking up and hitting him with a baton.'"

It was first officially recorded use of the stun belt in Los Angeles County since the controversial device went on sale five years ago. It became instant hit with police since it can be remotely operated at up to 300ft. It has since been bought by more than 100 other jurisdictions, with 27

recorded uses nationwide. Amnesty International has bracketed the US with Algeria and China for allowing bailiffs and prison guards to use "stun guns" and "laser guns" which administer shocks via metal hooks attached to wires and fired with compressed air — as well as stun belts. All are banned in Britain.

Nine deaths in Los Angeles jails have been linked to taser gun use, and in 1986 the city paid a \$300,000 (£190,000) settlement to a youth burned by stun guns to force him to confess to a robbery.

Mr Hawkins, who is HIV positive, suffered no obvious injury, and one court-appointed lawyer who saw the incident backed the judge: "The guy was out of line and he got spanked. It wasn't a big deal," Edward Cook said.

Appeals lawyers may think otherwise. As Hawkins said incredulously: "You are going to electrocute me for talking?" Judge Comparet-Cassini replied: "No, sir, but they will zap you if you keep doing it... One more time. One more time. Go ahead." Mr Hawkins's last words before the shock were: "That is unconstitutional."

The stun belt, which delivers its shock above the left kidney, is made of broad black nylon webbing and powered by a standard nine-volt alkaline battery that rests against the lower back. It costs about £500.

Tapping into a bill for £1,000

A SHOE designer is being charged £1,000 for water although her shop has no tap.

Jeanette Ongaro and her staff use the bathroom in the office of a car-hire firm above the shop in Penzance. But South West Water, which has the highest rates in the country, has told her that unless she has to "cross a public highway" she cannot borrow a bathroom for free. They have sent her a bill for £1,036.55 to cover from last August to the end of this year.

The car firm, Albert's Private Hire, say they have paid their water rates in full already. Mrs Ongaro said: "This is farcical."

A spokesman for South West Water said: "This is a legitimate bill. There are associated charges involved. We are following industry-wide guidelines. If you are using a water supply, even if it is not your own, you must pay."

Taste of former life will be penalty for Vinnie Jones

By RICHARD DUCES

VINNIE JONES, the Welsh international footballer with a "hardman" reputation, will tackle a new role as part-time painter and decorator as his punishment for assaulting a neighbour.

Jones, 33, will carry out the unpaid work at schools, hospitals, and council buildings near his home in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, after being ordered last week to do 100 hours' community service.

He was a hod carrier before turning professional as a footballer and is now employed as assistant manager with Queens Park Rangers. Jones was convicted of assault by St Albans magistrates who decided he had punched, kicked and bitten riding instructor Timothy Gear in a row over a stile which the footballer had put up. Hertfordshire Probation

Service confirmed the new role for Jones yesterday saying he would not follow footballing offender Eric Cantona, who was allowed to coach young players after his conviction for kicking a supporter at Manchester United's game with Crystal Palace. Matthew Kelly, Hertfordshire assistant chief probation officer said that similar work had not been considered appropriate for Jones. "Given the nature of his conviction, it has been decided that a footballing placement would not be suitable."

"It is not our policy to put offenders convicted of this type of offence in a placement where they are likely to be working with impressionable young people, especially in a sporting environment."

The former Wimbledon player is expected to start work shortly as part of a small team, alongside other offenders serving sentences for crimes such as theft, minor assaults and small-scale drug possession.

Mr Kelly said: "We are not making special arrangements in this case. Vinnie Jones will be part of a regular community service team carrying out unpaid work for the good of the community."



Jones: football "not suitable"

Daughter's fraud lasted for 17 years

A DAUGHTER collected her dead mother's pension for 17 years and was discovered only when Buckingham Palace attempted to send the traditional telegram congratulating her mother on reaching her 100th birthday. Inquiries by DSS officials revealed that Margaret Quayle could not be traced because she had died on December 12, 1980.

Mary Walker, 60, of Merseyside, a mother of five, was jailed for 2½ years yesterday at Liverpool Crown Court after pleading guilty to seven charges of obtaining benefit by deception, a total of £62,000. Officials secretly monitored Walker and captured her collecting her late mother's £95 pension at the post office on video camera.

When officials called at her home to confront her, she replied: "I am glad it is all over. It is a load off my mind."

Bid to silence night-long chimes falls on deaf ears

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

WHEN Graham Jones, a retired farmer, lies in bed and tires of counting sheep, he counts the chimes of his neighbour's clock instead. But for Mr Jones, the 639 bings, bongs and dongs that ring out between 11pm and 7.30am are anything but restful.

Yesterday, Mr Jones launched a private prosecution against his 91-year-old neighbour, Winifred Jones, to silence her grandmother clock, which chimes every 15 minutes. Mr Jones, 65, told magistrates that since the great-grandmother was given the clock as a Christmas present last year, it had kept him awake every night.

"The noise from the clock is objectionable," he said. "It is causing me undue stress. Some people might think grandfather clocks are quaint, but try sleeping just yards

away from one every night." Mr Jones, from Narberth in West Wales, took Mrs Jones to court after complaints to his MP, the Government and the chief constable of Dyfed Powys police fell on deaf ears. He had no more success with the magistrates in Tenby who threw out his case after hearing that the clock's Westminster

chimes fell within World Health Organisation noise guidelines.

Mr Jones insisted yesterday that he would continue his campaign against his downstairs neighbour at the William Court sheltered housing complex in Narberth. "The magistrates and environmental health officers may say it's not a nuisance, but they don't have to live with it. Every 15 minutes the clock starts up its chiming from dusk to dawn and I suffer with every single one of them."


The 4ft, 1930s clock stands in the corner of Mrs Jones's living room. She said: "The whole thing is ridiculous. The clock had only been in my home for one night before he started complaining. He gave me three days' notice to stop the chimes or he would take me to court. I'm 91 years old. At my age I should not be subjected to that."



Jones: kept awake


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phrases

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DEFENCE EDITOR

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Former MP says sorry in court

Church's ten martyrs of the 20th century

Across the world, they died for their Christian faith. These are the lives of the ten whose statues were unveiled at Westminster Abbey yesterday

Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia, great-aunt of the Duke of Edinburgh, was murdered in July 1918, the night after the Tsar and his family. Born in 1864, she grew up partly in England. A famous beauty, she married Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, fifth son of the Tsar. He was assassinated in 1905. She helped to found the Mary and Martha home in Moscow, to foster prayer and charity. In 1909, she was among 17 new "sisters of love and mercy".



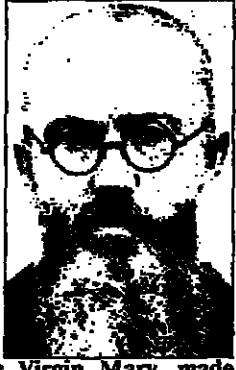
One of her Bolshevik assassins, Ryabov, giving an account published this week in *The Terrible Alternative: Christian Martyrdom in the Twentieth Century* (Cassel), said that she was the first of a group of prisoners to be led to a mineshaft. "After throwing her down the shaft, we heard her struggling for some time. Then I threw in a grenade. After a short while, we heard talking and a terrible groan. I threw another grenade. And what do you think — from beneath the ground we heard singing!" They ran out of grenades and filled the shaft with dry brushwood which they set alight. "Their hymns still rose up through the thick smoke for some time yet." Elizabeth was recognised as a saint by the Moscow Patriarchate in 1992.

Mnche Masemola, of South Africa, was murdered by her own parents in February 1928, when she was 16. Her parents were animists, of the Pedi tribe, struggling to clear out an existence on barren reserved lands in the Transvaal, where she converted to Christianity. She was viewed with suspicion. Mnche, who was never photographed, was not sent to school, but worked with her family. She converted to Christianity after going to hear Father Augustine Moeke, known as "the Apostle of Sekhukhuneland", preach at a mission set up by the Anglican Community of the Resurrection. She wanted to attend church classes but was discouraged by her parents, who sent her to the traditional initiation school, where she underwent a symbolic ritual circumcision.



When she still insisted on being Christian, her parents began to administer beatings, out of fear that she would refuse to marry and have children. Mnche is reported as saying: "If they cut off my head, I will never leave my faith." She predicted to Father Moeke: "I shall be baptised with my own blood." Her parents finally took her to an isolated place and, according to a witness, beat her to death. A few days later her younger sister died and was buried beside her, by a granite rock on a hillside.

Maximilian Kolbe was killed by lethal injection in Auschwitz in August 1941 after he offered his own life to save another prisoner, Franciszek Gajowniczek. Kolbe, born in 1894 in Poland to devout, nationalistic parents, studied philosophy and theology in Rome. With other students he set up *Militia Immaculatae*, a body that promoted a cult of the Virgin Mary, made converts and did good works. He returned to lecture in Craoow and the community flourished on a plot given to them near Warsaw that became Niepokalanow, the city of the Immaculatae.



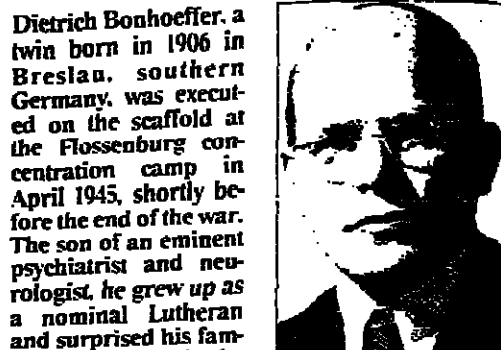
In 1930 Kolbe and some brothers bought a second plot of land in Nagasaki, Japan and published another journal. He returned to Poland, where his community and its journals were flourishing. Kolbe described it as "a modern workshop for the improvement of man." When war began he sent his brothers away. He was inevitably detained. At Auschwitz he gave his food away regularly, heard confessions and defied the Nazis by saying Mass.

The starvation cell where he died is now a shrine and he was canonised by the Pope in 1981. The abbey authorities state that Kolbe is "much remembered" in the Christian Church.

Lucian Tapiedi, born in Papua New Guinea in 1921, was killed during the Japanese invasion in 1942 by a man who later converted to Christianity. The son of a sorcerer, his mother converted to Christianity when her husband died and dedicated her two boys to the Church. Tapiedi was taught at mission schools and went on to teacher training college, where he enjoyed gardening, deep-sea fishing, cricket, football and studying. He was also a talented organist. In 1941 he joined the staff of a large school at the Sangara mission station as a teacher and evangelist.



In 1942, when the Japanese invaded Papua New Guinea, the missionaries, supported by Tapiedi, struggled to evade capture. He was among a group of ten people who fled to a village inhabited by Orokaiva people, who had been told by the Japanese they would be punished if they did not hand over any Europeans. Tapiedi, being Papuan, considered himself safe, but he was from a different tribe. He was hacked to death from behind with an axe. Of the others in the party, one was pushed over a precipice by a village constable, two were shot and six, including a six-year-old boy, were beheaded. A shrine now marks the place where Tapiedi died.



Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a twin born in 1906 in Breslau, southern Germany, was executed on the scaffold at the Flossenburg concentration camp in April 1945, shortly before the end of the war. The son of an eminent psychiatrist and neurologist, he grew up as a nominal Lutheran and surprised his family when, at 13, he announced he wanted to go into the Church. He studied at Berlin University and at 18 was tempted to convert to Roman Catholicism, believing that German Protestantism was too closely tied to the state and would not be free to confront the truth. He became an outspoken opponent of the Nazi Party. In 1932 he said in a sermon: "We must not be surprised if also for our Church there will be times again when the blood of martyrs will be called for."

When he gave a lecture on Radio Berlin warning against the leader "who makes an idol of himself and his office", the microphone was disconnected. When he lectured a group of pastors on the need to jam a spoke in the wheel of the anti-Jewish legislation of the German Reich, some pastors walked out. He was arrested in 1943 for his work with groups committed to the overthrow of the government.

Esther John, born in India, but who moved with her Muslim family to Pakistan after partition, was found dead in her bed in February 1960, her skull smashed twice with a heavy, sharp instrument. Police suspected a disappointed lover, but, after investigations, they reported: "Sir, we have found no clue. This girl was in love only with your Christ." She attended a government school and later a Christian school. On reading the 53rd chapter of Isaiah, she had a conversion experience but kept her faith secret, eventually running away from home at the prospect of marriage to a Muslim husband. She found work in an orphanage in Karachi, abandoned her birth name, Qamar Zia, and took the name Esther John.



She was still being urged to return home and marry, but, recognising that in her society, it was impossible for a Christian woman to be married to a Muslim, she went instead to the Punjab, where she worked in a mission hospital and entered a Bible training college in Gujranwala. In 1959 she went to live with American Presbyterian missionaries in Chichawatni, where she evangelised and taught women to read. Her death has never been fully explained.

Martin Luther King was shot dead by James Earl Ray in Memphis in April 1968 at the age of 39, a year after he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The son of a Baptist minister in Atlanta, Georgia, he was motivated from childhood by what he saw of racial hatred and the oppression that African-Americans encountered at every turn. He later said: "Certainly a Negro child in Atlanta could not go to any public park. I could not go to a lunch counter to buy a hamburger or a cup of coffee."



He went to college and was ordained in fulfilment of "an inner urge calling me to serve humanity". His first church was at Dexter Avenue in Montgomery, Alabama, where he joined the campaign against segregation on the city's bus service. After forming the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to continue the fight for justice, he and his family began to receive death threats. He believed that violence bred violence, and that hatred should be met with love. "Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice," he said. His civil rights campaigning helped to transform America, leading to legislation to advance and protect the rights of its citizens, whatever their race.

Wang Zhiming (no picture available) was executed in December 1973 at a rally of more than 10,000 Chinese Christians who had been forced to attend in an attempt to frighten them into submission. In 1981 a memorial was erected to him in Wuding County, the only known monument in China to commemorate a Christian killed in the Cultural Revolution. The county in the Yunnan region had been visited by missionaries in 1906. They were expelled after the Communist revolution, but Christianity endured.



Wang was educated in mission schools and ordained as a pastor in 1951. He showed loyalty to the state but refused to take part in "denunciation" meetings. In the ten years after 1966, churches were closed and Christians met secretly. At least 21 Christian leaders in Wuding were interned and many denounced, beaten and sent to camps. Muslims were also persecuted. Wang was arrested in 1969, aged 66, with members of his family. His wife survived after imprisonment of three years, two sons were in prison for nine years, a third reportedly committed suicide. In 1980 Wang was "rehabilitated" after it was recognised that the policy to destroy religion had failed.

Janaani Lwumwa, Archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Boga-Zaire, was taken away and murdered after protesting to Idi Amin about repeated acts of violence by the security services. His body was never found. Lwumwa had been converted as a young teacher in 1948 and at once became an outspoken evangelist. After attending theological college, he was ordained, studied in England and was appointed provincial secretary of the Church he was soon to lead. Lwumwa won a reputation for creative leadership, energy and commitment. When he was consecrated bishop of Northern Uganda in 1969, Amin, then chief of staff in the army, was among the congregation.

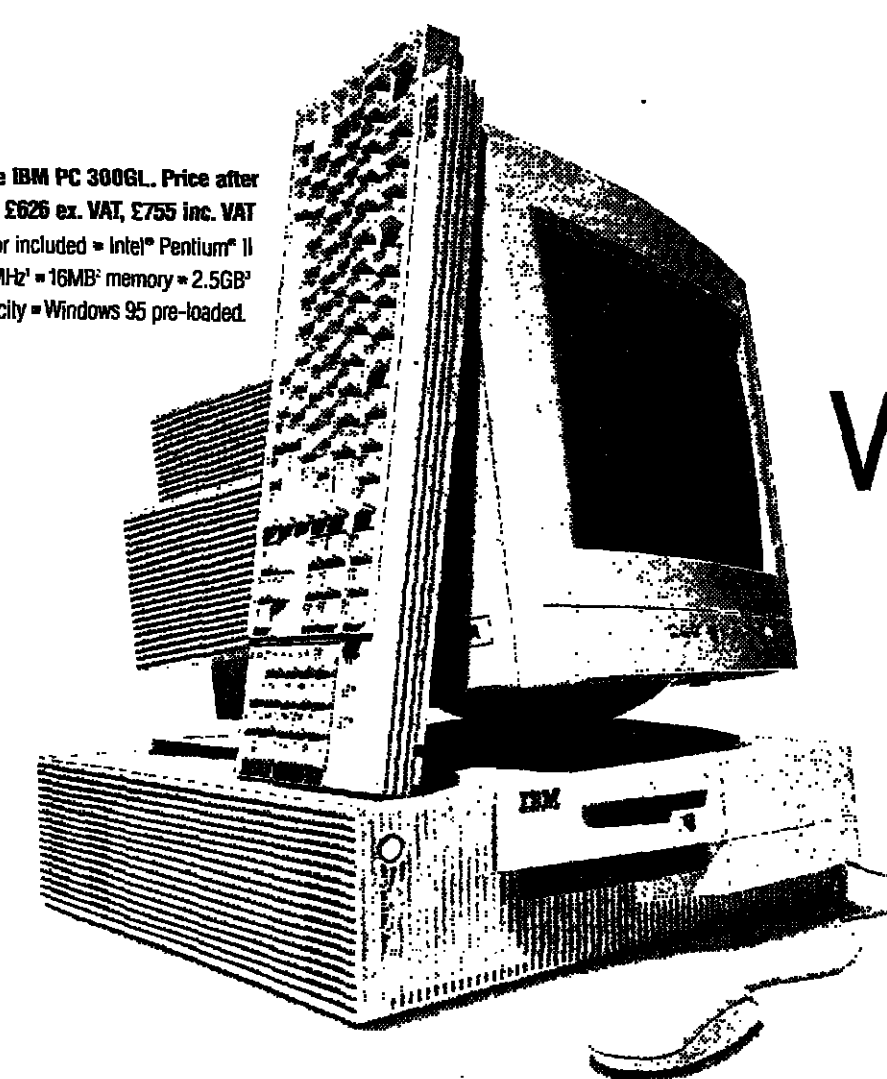


When Lwumwa was elected archbishop in 1974, Amin had already seized power, expelled the Asian population and established his reputation for intimidation, violence and corruption. He tried to be friends with the archbishop, probably to give himself credibility, while the archbishop pleaded repeatedly for the victims of his rule. After Lwumwa personally delivered his rebuke to Amin, he was accused of aiding an arms shipment. He shook his head and said: "They are going to kill me. I am not afraid."

Oscar Romero was shot dead in 1980 while celebrating Mass in a hospital chapel at San Salvador, where he was the Roman Catholic archbishop. Born in the mountainous east of El Salvador in 1917, one of seven children, he was ordained in Rome in 1942. He was secretary of the San Miguel diocese for 23 years, establishing a reputation as a preacher and broadcaster, and became Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977. When a priest friend was murdered in Aguilares, Romero became concerned that there was no official inquiry and that power lay in the hands of violent men who were committing murder with impunity.



The archbishop espoused the poor and persecuted, and preached a powerful gospel of morality. His Church began to document human rights abuses in which people disappeared without trace. The press attacked him, a succession of priests were murdered and in 1979 he presented seven dossiers on atrocities to the Pope. But he was increasingly isolated within the Church and threatened from outside, until finally he was killed. The people of El Salvador cherish his memory. He once said that murdered priests were "testimony of a Church incarnated in the problems of its people".

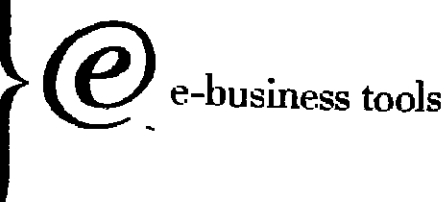


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Young Princes may help in acceptance of Parker Bowles

By Alan Hamilton

THE disclosure that Prince William had a chance encounter with Camilla Parker Bowles at St James's Palace was an unexpectedly convenient step in the rehabilitation of the image of the Prince of Wales's companion.

The nature and timing of the leak was not what the Prince of Wales would have wished, but the dissemination of the knowledge that Prince William had a 30-minute chat with Mrs Parker

Bowles after the two met by chance, and that they have met on two occasions since, will help.

Assuming that Prince William was happy with the encounters, Mrs Parker Bowles will feel a milestone has been passed on her road to public acceptance. If she subsequently were to meet 13-year-old Prince Harry and be accepted by both boys, her position would be even further strengthened.

It was inevitable that a story with such popular appeal would not remain under wraps for long

and, once it knew the story was about to break, St James's Palace went on the offensive. A statement was prepared, admitting the truth of the matter, and reporters were encouraged to ring the private number of an employee of the Press Complaints Commission, who also had a statement to hand.

Although there is no suggestion of a conspiracy, there is definitely a movement to gain public acceptance of the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles, which has the backing of influential elements in the Govern-

ment. The moves displease the traditional courtiers of Buckingham Palace, who increasingly feel that St James's Palace is being run as an independent fiefdom.

The Prince's relationship with Mrs Parker Bowles is the worst-kept royal secret. He did nothing to hide his hosting of a 50th birthday party for her at Highgrove last year, one of several cautious moves to gain public acceptance of their liaison. But all was put on ice last August when Diana, Princess of Wales, who

complained on television that there were three people in her marriage, was killed.

There was an unspoken agreement that Mrs Parker Bowles should retire to the shadows at least until after the first anniversary of the Princess's death. It had been intended that she should return to a higher public profile at the time of the Prince's 50th birthday on November 14 this year.

The plot, inevitably, involves Peter Mandelson, although there

is no suggestion that he had any direct involvement in yesterday's announcement. Mark Bolland, the Prince's assistant private secretary and the most forward-thinking and politically astute of his staff, is a close friend of Mr Mandelson. His was previously secretary of the Press Complaints Commission.

Simon Lewis, whose appointment was recently confirmed as the new director of communications at Buckingham Palace, is also loosely associated with the Mandelson circle. Observers say

that part of Mr Lewis's job will be to bridge the widening gap between the households of the Queen and her eldest son.

Mr Mandelson, and the Prime Minister, support plans to modernise the monarchy and to prepare it for the 21st century. The Government is well aware that the Prince, and the country, will eventually have to hit the bullet where Mrs Parker Bowles is concerned. Yesterday's disclosure has brought the matter marginally closer to a head.

Garden planners dismiss 'Diana Disneyworld' claim

Designs unveiled yesterday did not appease Kensington residents, writes Daniel McGrory

SUPPORTERS of the £10 million garden in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, denied yesterday that it would become a "Diana Disneyworld".

Paul Burrell, her former butler, insisted there would be no entrance fee, no amusements nor any fast-food vendors allowed in front of her home at Kensington Palace.

"It will be elegant, fitting and simple, as the Princess would have wanted it," he said.

Local residents were not convinced, as plans unveiled yesterday for the memorial garden give little away about its final appearance. There were no scale models, nor computer graphics, and the plans did not show a single vehicle, which residents of the royal borough fear most of all.

Up to 350,000 tourists a month are expected to visit the gardens, which the Diana Memorial Committee said was "the people's overwhelming choice as the best way to remember Diana".

The proposals are for a children's garden, a scented garden for the blind and a 300ft floodlit fountain in the Round Pond. Critics say the spray from that fountain will soak miles of West London and drown local wildlife.

The planners, sensitive to local objections, insisted the

fountain would be turned off at times to allow the pond to be used by model boat enthusiasts.

Residents have a month to lodge their objections, which will be considered by the memorial committee in September before international designers are invited to bid for the project. The planned garden will be bigger than predicted, covering 27 acres, about a tenth of the park.

Last night Ethne Rodd, of the Kensington Society, said: "The gardens will become a tourist trap. All the tourists buses are going to say, 'And

we are going to see Diana's Memorial Gardens.' Then there are going to be crowds walking around in coloured hats and holding umbrellas. The character of the gardens would change completely."

The art critic Brian Sewell, who lives near by, said: "This is an exercise in deceit. It is so cowardly that they put up a plan showing so-called proposed areas and yet they show nothing of the design."

"If they want a tribute to Diana, then they should leave the gardens as they were when she was alive. I firmly believe they intend to get the plan in

through the back door and, in so doing, ruin one of the finest parks in West London."

A spokesman for the memorial committee rejected Mr Sewell's allegations, saying: "It is absolutely untrue that there are detailed plans already in existence, and it is deeply unfair of Mr Sewell to spray around accusations of cowardice and deceit ... This is just the very first step."

"Whether we like it or not, people come to Kensington Palace to remember the Princess. Unless there is some amazing construction somewhere else, then this will

continue to be the focal point."

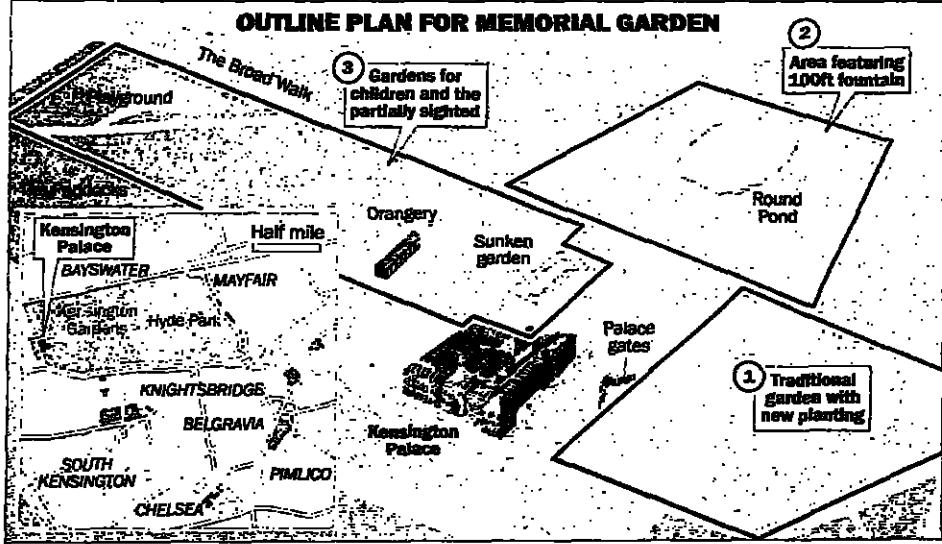
The garden is likely to take three years to complete. Even if local councils object to the plan, they can be overruled by the Secretary of State for the Environment as it is on Crown land in a Royal Park.

The three-part plan was drawn up by the memorial committee with heritage and park bodies. Mr Burrell, who now works for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, said: "It is to be a very simple, quiet place for contemplation. It is not going to be commercialised beyond recognition. This is not going to be a Disneyworld for Diana."

The traditional garden will be placed behind the spot where millions of bouquets were laid by mourners in the days after the Princess's death last August. The second area will surround the Round Pond and a new fountain, thought to be capable of reaching heights of more than 100ft.

The third sector, to the north of the palace, will appeal to children, with possibly a "magical garden" and a "touch and smell" garden for the blind and partially sighted.

The plans are now on show at the Albert Memorial Visitor Centre in the park.



Paul Burrell and Louise Jordan, of the memorial committee, in the gardens yesterday

BUY ONE



THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1998

century

minster Abbey yesterday

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a twin born in 1906 in Breslau, southern Germany, was executed on the scaffold at the Hossburn concentration camp in April 1945, shortly before the end of the war. The son of an eminent psychiatrist and neurologist, he grew up as a nominal Lutheran and surprised his family when, at 13, he announced he wanted to study at Berlin University and, believing that German Protestants closely tied to the state and would confront the truth, he would support the Nazi Party. In Weimar, there will be times again when many will be called for.

When he gave a lecture on his warning against the leader "who has of himself and his office" who has discouraged. When he lectured on the need to join a spoke in the anti-Jewish legislation of the German parliament, he was arrested for his work with group, counter-attack of the government.

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Words with special meaning in the dictionary of trouble

SOME words have a resonance in Northern Ireland that they do not have in Britain. David McNarry, a member of the Orange Order's strategy committee, uttered a few yesterday. If the Order was not allowed to complete its parade along the Garvaghy Road, it could "paralyse this country in a matter of hours".

Other Orange leaders later sought to disown his statement, but the genie was out. The Province's population know that was not an empty threat. In 1974 the Ulster Workers Council strike against the Sunningdale power-

sharing executive paralysed Northern Ireland. A 1977 general strike fizzled for lack of Unionist support but, in 1996, during 'Drumcree II', loyalists closed ports, motorways and the airport until the police capitulated and forced the march through.

Security officials remained sanguine in the face of Mr McNarry's threat. They argued that, in 1974, the strikers enjoyed great popular support and were able to close the power stations. This time, three quarters of the population have just voted for a new beginning, and much of the electricity supply

comes from Scotland. They do not believe that Orangemen want to wreck their own country. Security chiefs have also learnt the lessons of 1996 and have 28,000 troops and police officers on hand.

This past week's mayhem has been perpetrated more by youths, thugs and hoodlums than mainstream Orangemen. They can temporarily block roads and railway lines, but "unless the mood changes I don't believe they can paralyse the place," one security source said.

The mood could well change, and could do so as early as this

COMMENTARY

Sunday — the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne — when tens of thousands of Orangemen are expected to descend on Drumcree to support their brethren's right to march. Again it is hard for an outsider to understand the passions involved. These are people reared on tales of defiance, who feel their identity is under threat, who no longer believe the Government is on their side, and who face the imminent prospect of Sinn Fein sitting in Northern

Ireland's cabinet and IRA prisoners being freed with not one gun surrendered.

To outsiders, the Garvaghy Road is merely half a mile of tar, but to Orangemen whose forebears were parading down it long before the adjacent Catholic estates were ever dreamed of, it is a last line of resistance against a relentless nationalist encroachment. "I would give up my life for this," said one of the hundreds encamped around the Drumcree church. A single Orangeman hit by a plastic bullet, or accidentally injured by a speeding army Land

Rover, and the television screens could be filled with pictures of running battles.

There is another trap that outsiders easily fall into. They arrive believing there must always be an answer, that one side must be right and the other must be wrong, but it is never so simple. Republican agitators have undoubtedly whipped up antagonism to the parade in the Garvaghy Road estates, but they could not have done so if there was not a genuine sense of grievance. They let the 1995 parade pass — and watched the

displays of triumph when the marchers reached the other end. This year the Parades Commission has ruled in their favour.

It is very unlikely that the RUC will capitulate in the face of violence for a third year and force the march through. Sinn Fein has been demanding the RUC's disbandment on the grounds that it is the military arm of Unionism. In such circumstances, it would be hard for Chris Patten's new Commission on Police Reform to disagree.

MARTIN FLETCHER

Orange leaders meet LVF for talks

BY AUDREY MAGREE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR members of the Orange Order have held talks with the terrorist Loyalist Volunteer Force to try to defuse the increasingly militant nature of the stand-off at Drumcree.

Denis Watson, the Armagh County Grand Master, and Kerry McClinton, an LVF representative and close friend of its former leader Billy Wright, met in the parish hall at Drumcree on Wednesday as the stand-off entered its sixth day. The disclosure of the meeting will come as an embarrassment to the Orangemen, who have been trying to distance themselves from the LVF, the Portadown-based terrorist group that is ostensibly supporting the ceasefire. But the terrorists and their young supporters gather at Drumcree every day to show solidarity with the Orangemen.

Mr McClinton, who served

16 years of a life sentence for murder and gave the graveside oration at Wright's funeral, met a number of senior members of the Orange Order, including Mr Watson, to discuss the growing crisis.

After the meeting, Mr McClinton said: "The Orange Order asked me to reassure them that there would be absolutely no violence. The Orange Order protest at Drumcree is a peaceful and legal protest and that is the way they want it to be."

Leaders of the Orange Order are worried by the role played each night by about 200 young men, many of whom are believed to be members and supporters of the LVF. They gather at the barbed wire barrier blocking the entrance to the Garvaghy Road and taunt police. A man believed to have succeeded Wright as leader of the LVF has even ridden to the country



Senior Orangemen, led by the Rev William Bingham, left, arriving at Downing Street yesterday to discuss Drumcree

church on his Harley Davidson to chat openly to Orangemen during the stand-off.

David Burrows, Deputy District Master of the Orange Order in Portadown, said the Order could not control LVF involvement. He said: "We do not own the area. We cannot actually send people away or even know them as they are not going around with badges."

Many of the young LVF supporters openly admit to

being recruited by the Orange Order. One 27-year-old man who was not a member of the Orange Order said that he had been rostered by the Orangemen to do 12-hour shifts in the field from 6am to 6pm. His main task was to harass the police at the front line. The man, who declined to be named, said: "At the end of the day, all Protestant people have to stick together. I will do what I can to help out."

One of the 16 Orange Order marshalls yesterday admitted he deliberately encouraged the young men at the front line to antagonise the security forces. "We want to keep the boys on their toes. We cannot let them stop to have tea or anything. The police are on E21 an hour and may as well work for it."

Early yesterday police fired a number of rounds of plastic bullets at the crowd who cut through the wire and charged

the security area separating the Orangemen from the Garvaghy Road. The men, in balaclavas and masks, cut down trees and telegraph poles to help them bridge the deep trenches dug by the security forces. About 3,000 Orangemen cheered as the young men reached the police and Army zone at about 1AM yesterday. They quickly retreated when police opened fire.

IRA prisoner withdraws offer to help appeal

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A CONVICTED IRA terrorist who could allegedly help to free an Irishman protesting his innocence over the 1993 Warrington gasworks bombing has changed his mind about giving evidence. The Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

John Kinsella, 53, a petty criminal from Dublin, is seeking to have his conviction for possession of explosives with intent to endanger life overturned. After making a statement in prison claiming that Kinsella played no part in the bombing, the IRA cell leader Padraic MacFhloinn told solicitors that the republican movement had ordered him not to give evidence.

Anthony Scrivener, QC, Kinsella's counsel, told three appeal judges that the Irishman was duped by the three-man active service unit responsible for the bombing into hiding a holdall for them. Kinsella, a father of five living in Nottingham, buried the holdall, which he believed held the proceeds of a burglary, in his allotment after being promised £200.

But it contained explosives and after being arrested by police investigating the explosion at the Longford Holder gasworks, he led officers to the

cache. Mr Scrivener told the court: "Here is a man at the centre of the attack, an admitted IRA officer, who appears to clear the appellant from any complicity in the offence. He has made statements to that effect. He refuses now to give evidence because of pressure put on him by the movement."

In an application for the original written statement by MacFhloinn to be admitted in evidence, Mr Scrivener submitted that it supports the view that Kinsella was not lying when he expressed his dislike for the IRA and was not a member of the movement.

The case continues.

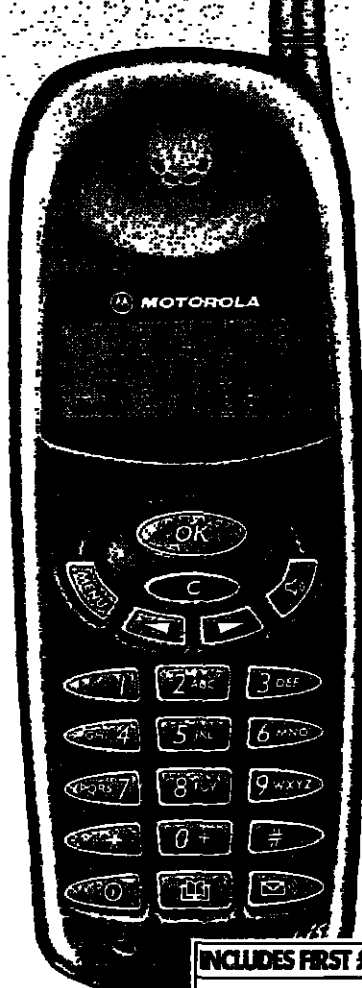


Kinsella: he led police to buried explosives

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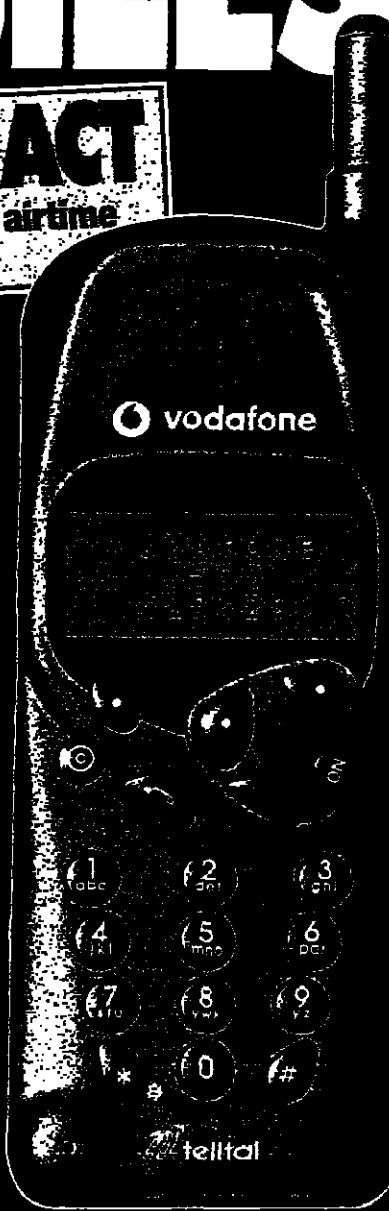
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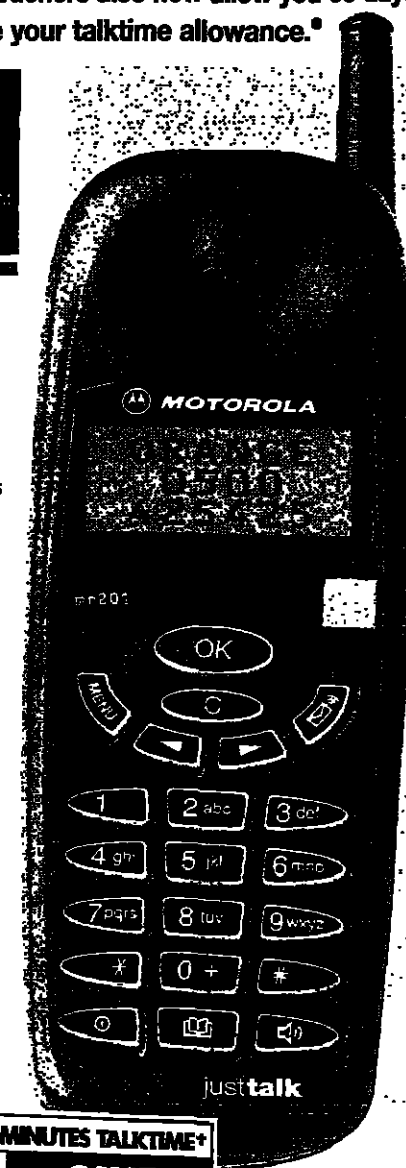
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Paris parties as Croat supermen falter

Victory has turned France into a nation of patriotic football fans

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

Many thousands of French football fans joined a massive street party lasting into the early hours yesterday after France's World Cup semi-final victory over Croatia in the most extravagant display of national rejoicing in recent memory.

The Champs-Élysées was packed solid as an estimated 350,000 people poured into the Paris streets, bringing to a halt traffic and, for anyone unpatriotic enough to be attempting it near by, sleep.

French politicians fell over one another to express their joy at France winning a place in the final for the first time, a result few in France would have dared to predict a month ago.

"This is an extraordinary moment in the history of French sport," declared Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister. "We had hoped for France-Brazil, and now it has happened. This is the dream."

Within seconds of the final whistle, jubilant fans streamed into the streets (deserted throughout the previous 90 minutes), cheering, dancing, sounding car horns and letting off fireworks.

Youths, many with their faces painted red, white and blue, danced on bus shelters in the Champs-Élysées, and police, who would normally have arrested them on the spot, used traffic cones as megaphones to lead the cheers for the national team.

The same scenes, on a lesser scale, were repeated in cities throughout France and, in Montreal, French Canadians took to the streets shouting "Allez les Bleus!"

The French press yesterday luxuriated in an orgy of superlatives: "Heroes", declared the sports paper *L'Equipe*; "The dreamiest final", said *Libération*, while the front page of *Le Parisien* simply chanted "Thuram! Thuram!", in honour of Lilian Thuram, the defender and unlikely scorer of both French goals.

The universal joy was marred only by the continued convalescence of the *gendarme* brutally attacked by German



French supporters in Lille celebrate France's 2-1 victory over Croatia

Racism and crude political exploitation taint Zagreb festivities

FROM TOM WALKER IN ZAGREB

The angry youth with Bad Blue Boys emblazoned across his baseball cap jumped up and down on the ambulance roof in glee. "The first guy to score gets to sleep with the President's daughter!" he screamed down to a sea of checkerboard red and white. He was led away by secret police - distinguishable only from the hooligan in that they did not have slogans etched across their shaven skulls. Another inebriated fan,



A Croatian supporter weeps after watching her team's semi-final defeat

bearing the legend "Thank God I was born a Croat", urinated against a gift-shop window.

Amid the firecrackers, vomit and rabid patriotism, the romance of plucky little Croatia's World Cup rollercoaster waned in Zagreb's central "square of flowers" on Wednesday night. For a nation struggling to come to terms with the bloodshed of both its recent and distant past, its

astounding sporting prowess comes tarnished with undercurrents of racism and political manipulation.

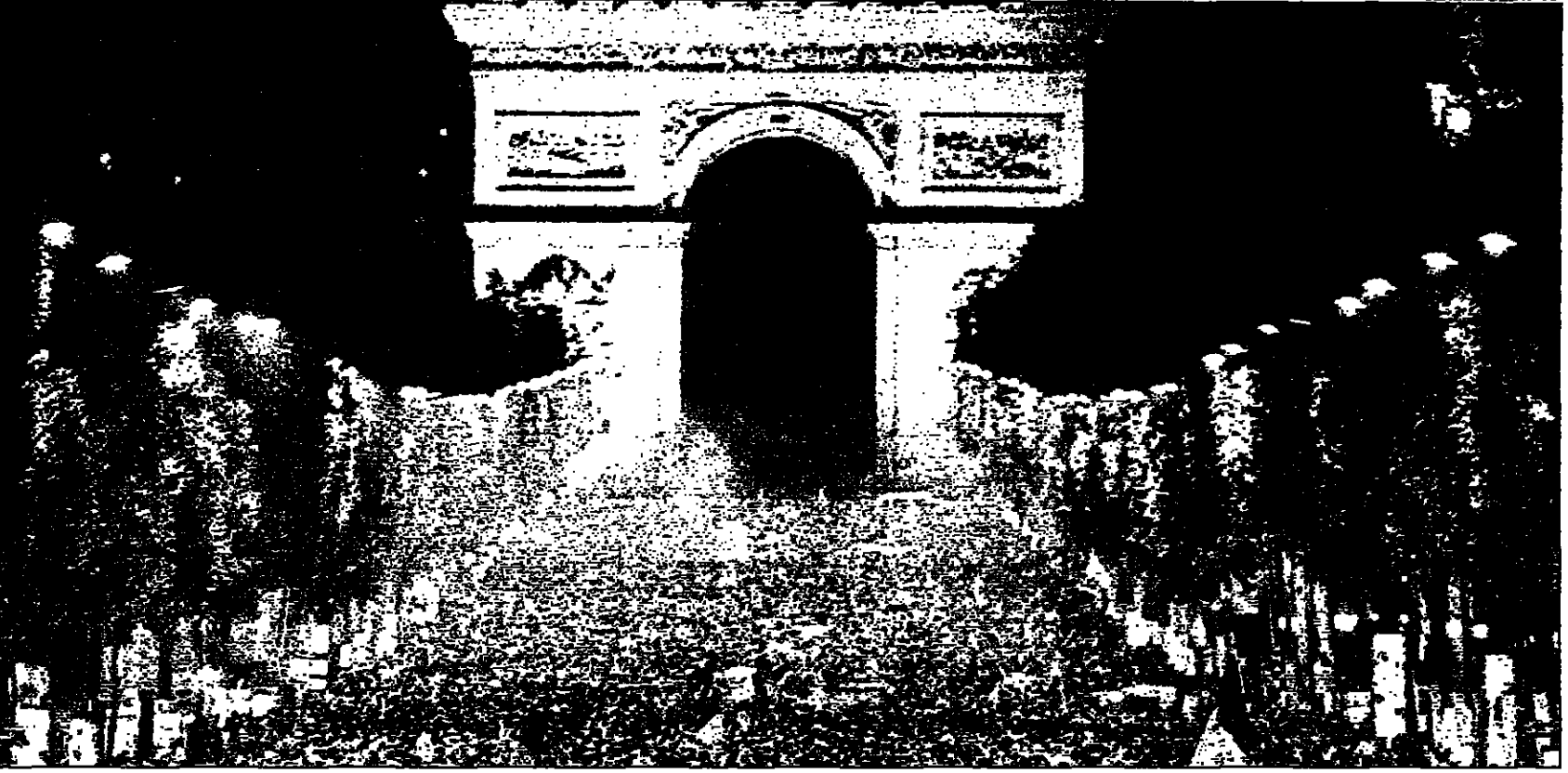
When you talk sport in Croatia, you talk government, because Franjo Tudjman, the autocratic President, likes nothing more than to stamp his imprimatur on football, tennis, basketball, handball - whatever the flavour of the month may be. There were rumours in Zagreb that had Croatia reached Sunday's final Dr Tudjman would have called a snap election.

Dr Tudjman's mouthpiece throughout France '98 has been the Croatian trainer, Miroslav Blazevic, who has metamorphosed from ridiculed idiot to national hero in two weeks. "The Bad Blue Boys fans of Dynamo Zagreb, [renamed Croatia Zagreb by Dr Tudjman] used to call him a faggot," said one opposition journalist. "Now we're forced to listen to his every word."

And how Blazevic has talked. "Croatian sportsmen have the genetic capacity to produce excellent players with imagination and creativity," he said after the quarter-final defeat of Germany, which sparked the biggest celebrations since the army pushed the national Serb minority out of eastern Croatia in 1995.

"We are closer to the European spirit," he continued, now twisting the knife in the historic Serb enemy, whose World Cup fortunes withered with Yugoslavia's short-lived campaign. "Yugoslavia are disorganised. We have a completely different genetic heritage."

Before Dr Tudjman's next populist outburst, he could do well to remember the lives his brand of nationalism still costs in the region. As he drank champagne with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, last week, a 25-year-old Muslim woman, Emina Catic, was killed by a stray bullet in the divided Bosnian town of Mostar, fired by a Croat toasting victory in a more traditional manner.



Hundreds of thousands of fans through the Champs-Élysées on Wednesday night after France won a place in the World Cup final for the first time

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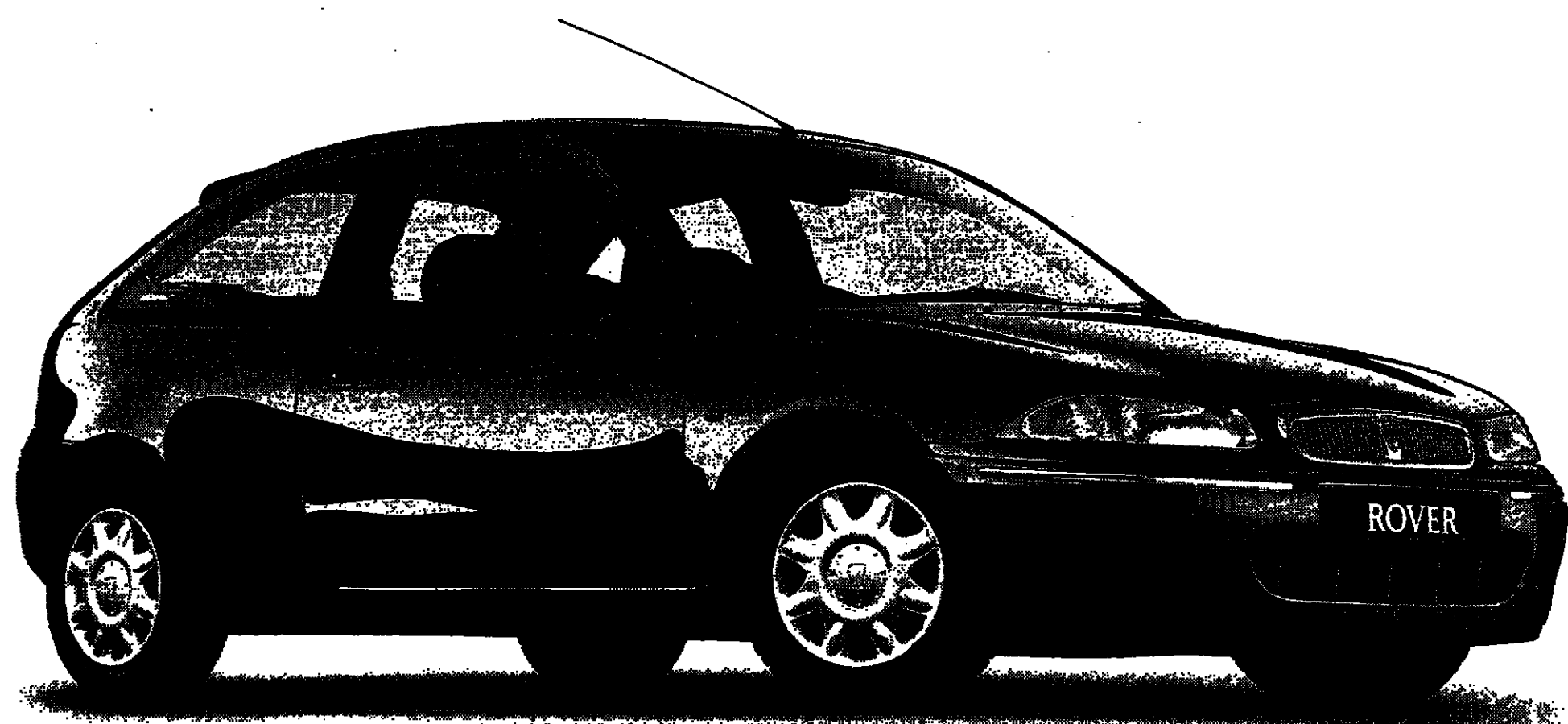
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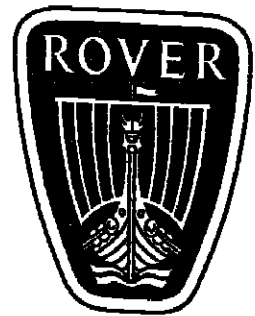
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مركز امن الاصل

Grandmother jailed for poll tax arrears

A GRANDMOTHER was jailed for three months for failing to pay £600 poll tax dating back eight years. Betty Jack, 71, who weighs six stone and uses a wheelchair, was freed after one night when a solicitor applied to a High Court judge for her immediate release.

Mrs Jack had been escorted to New Hall prison, near Wakefield, by bailiffs executing a magistrates' warrant. A judicial review of the sentence will now take place and the magistrates in Doncaster who ordered her imprisonment will have to justify their actions to a High Court judge. Richard Wise, the solicitor who arranged Mrs Jack's release, said yesterday: "There's no justification whatsoever for the sentence. I have dealt with more than one thousand such cases throughout the country over the last five years and this is one of the worst I have ever come across."

Mrs Jack, who lives on a £100 a week pension and mobility allowance, said: "I have worked all my life and paid all my dues, apart from this little bit of poll tax. I just got a bit behind. I was finding it hard to manage."

She is divorced but shares her council home at Edlington, South Yorkshire, with her

Magistrates must explain decision to High Court judge over disabled

71-year-old, writes Paul Wilkinson

former husband, Bill, 72, a former miner. She had two hip replacements last year and broke her pelvis in a fall which has left her confused. She cannot walk further than the ten yards to her garden gate and uses a walking frame.

Prison officials put Mrs Jack in the hospital wing and contacted the probation service, which telephoned Mr Wise, who specialises in cases involving poll tax fines. Prison staff gave her a meal and sent her home with a present of tea, sugar, milk and jam.

Mrs Jack said: "I must say I was treated like the Queen Mother. Even the bailiffs who took me were upset. I think they were more upset than me. The prison staff were lovely to me. They couldn't have treated me any better."

"I was at home when the bailiffs came without warning. At first I thought I was going to be taken to the magistrates' court. Then they put me in a car and drove me to prison. It's the first time in my life I have been inside a jail. I didn't know what was

happening," Ann Chapman, 37, a neighbour, said: "They put her wheelchair and Zimmer frame in the car and she was off. It happened so quickly even her ex-husband, who is stone deaf, didn't realise where she had gone."

"The bailiffs clearly didn't want to take her and they even called Doncaster council to check they had the correct person. One of the bailiffs was nearly in tears. He said he couldn't believe what he was doing, but it was his job."

"Fortunately, Betty is a cheerful soul and doesn't let anything get her down. She just sat there in the front seat of the car with a look of amazement on her face. She's very frail and easily gets confused, and is not very sprightly for her age."

Mrs Jack's arrears built up from 1990 to 1992. Mr Wise said: "She was robbing Peter to pay Paul and didn't have the money to pay off the debt. She was taken to court last summer and an order was made for her to pay a small sum towards the debt each

week. She made a number of payments then went into hospital and after that went into a bit of a forgetful state and stopped paying."

He said that a care plan for her should have been presented by social services to the magistrates. "Serious questions need to be asked about the way Doncaster council conducts itself. Everyone knew she was a disabled 71-year-old. This is an excessive sentence for non-payment."

A council spokesman said that the 90-day suspended jail term had been hanging over Mrs Jack since July 1994 and was dependent upon her making regular payments. She had failed to do that and the court was informed.

When she failed to attend, sentence was passed in her absence. The bench was fully aware of her disabilities. There had been irregular payments but the council's hands were tied.

The spokesman said: "The council has a duty to ensure that people pay community taxes. We only take non-payers to court as a last resort. All the facts are given to the magistrates, who make their decision based on the circumstances of each case."

Doncaster Magistrates' Court declined to comment pending the judicial review.



Betty Jack yesterday: "I just got a bit behind"

Farewell to the queen of country singers

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

FRIENDS and fans of Tammy Wynette gathered yesterday to stand by their woman one last time at a memorial service in her honour. Sir Cliff Richard led the tributes to the singer, who had become known as the queen of country music.

Fans of the star, who died in April, aged 55, were planning a Nashville-style line dance for later in the day. They were joined by Wynette's fifth husband, the producer George Richey, and the writer Ken Follet.

Sir Cliff, who collaborated with Wynette on the song *Your Love* in 1964, told the 300-strong congregation at St James's Church, Piccadilly, that she had been a talented, kind and generous woman. He said: "I found her to be a remarkable person. *Stand By Your Man* couldn't be sung by anyone but Tammy, and that's the mark of somebody who was truly excellent in her field."

There were none of the country anthems that had been belted out at the American memorial service, where Dolly Parton sang *Stand By Your Man*, but many tears were shed during the readings and the choir's rendition of *Amazing Grace*, Wynette's most famous hit.

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES MAGAZINE

TALKING HORSE

Robert Redford

Director's eye

WORLD CUP DIARIES

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FREE WITH THE SATURDAY TIMES

Irvine calls for an end to 'macho' working culture

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE culture of working long hours should be brought to an end, the Lord Chancellor said yesterday. Lord Irvine of Lairg also outlined plans for "family friendly" workplaces where people could work part-time and job share.

In his first big speech on employment law, the Lord Chancellor said: "Employees are not machines, they are people—people with families, with personal interests, with a need for rest and recreation."

The pressures of the modern business environment made it easy to "overlook the basic fact that we are only human," he told the Institute of Personnel and Development conference in London. Employees "are people who deserve to be treated with respect, as individuals, not as statistics."

Lord Irvine emphasised that the Government had a duty to promote policies that support family life. "We want to encourage different forms of employment, including part-time and job sharing, when they match the needs of both individuals and employers. This is one way in which we

are promoting a more family friendly workplace."

Such employment practices helped people by providing better access to job opportunities, helped children by allowing them more contact with parents, and helped businesses by giving them the opportunity to employ skilled, competent people who otherwise might be excluded from the workplace.

Lord Irvine detailed measures that underlined the Government's commitment to creating a family-friendly culture. One was the implementation of the working time directive that would "help tackle the macho long hours culture which blights so many people's working life."

Everyone had to put in extra hours when circumstances required, but excessively long hours should be unusual, not the norm. "A long working day can actually undermine productivity and creativity."

Other measures included the national minimum wage; the EU parental leave directive, to be implemented in December next year, which

will give working parents the right to a maximum of three months' parental leave; and the part-time work directive, which aims to eliminate discrimination against part-time workers.

He said the White Paper, *Fairness at Work*, also set out proposals for parental rights that went beyond the parental leave directive, including simplified and improved maternity provisions.

Lord Irvine, who has a reputation as one of the hardest-working ministers, admitted that the Government was one of the worst offenders in the long hours culture. His own officials worked a "punishing schedule", he said, and the business of Government for himself, as a minister, never came to an end—"not at the weekends, not in the summer months, not at all".

In his office by 7am, he rarely leaves before 7pm unless it is to go to an official engagement. His own officials have to put in similar hours, albeit on a shift basis, both in the private office and his press office.

Workers go shopping without leaving desk

By ALEX O'CONNELL

PUSHING the trolley up and down the aisles while searching for an obscure ingredient may soon be part of history.

The supermarket chain Waitrose has introduced what it believes is the world's first workplace shopping service. Waitrose at Work has been operating at ICL, an information technology company at Reading, Berkshire, for 15 months. British Airways staff are testing the service and Microsoft and the BBC have shown interest.

The scheme allows workers, using their employer's IT network, to order groceries during working hours. The shopping can then be collected at the place of work. All forms of groceries are on offer, including fresh, chilled and frozen foods, and all products carry normal prices.

Shoppers may store regular shopping lists on computer, so there will be no need for scrawled reminders on the back of an envelope. Waitrose claims that its computer shoppers will still have the same choices as the trolley-pushers.

"Not only will it be possible to click on a dish such as lemon Thai chicken and have your list written for you, customers will be able to specify whether they want green bananas or yellow," a spokesman said.

Sainsbury and Tesco have no plans to introduce a shop-at-work scheme, although each chain has a home-shopping service, where customers can order on the Web and have their groceries delivered to their home.

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Mansell joins the Redwood euro roadshow

NIGEL MANSSELL, the former Formula One world champion, made a surprising entrance in the race to save the pound yesterday, saying: "Unless you know what is around the next bend, there could be an almighty crash."

Mr Mansell was lured into going public with his views by John Redwood, the Shadow President of the Board of Trade and Tory high priest of Euroscepticism, whose latest conference on the single currency was hosted by Mr Mansell yesterday at Woodbury Park, his 500-acre golf and country club at Exeter.

Known as *Il Leone* (The Lion) on the Continent during his grand prix career, Mr Mansell described himself as a patriot: "I was a tax exile for 16 years. I have now come back to my homeland. But I am now more and more concerned that my future, in my own country, will be governed from abroad."

"I have lived my life going round the track at high speeds. I have the experience, answers and knowledge to do my job. But I'm fearful for the future because we have not been given the answers about the single currency."

The two men make an unlikely partnership, with apparently little in common, apart from a tendency to be criticised for a certain other-

Andrew Pierce reports on the newest recruit following in tracks of the sceptic team

worldliness in their speaking styles. Sports writers once dubbed Mr Mansell the most boring man in motor racing. He left school in Birmingham with two O levels. Mr Redwood is a Fellow of All Souls.

They strolled around the 18-hole course deep in conversation about the horrors of Brussels as astonished golfers missed their putts. Mr Redwood resisted the temptation to clamber into the Williams F1 that has pride of place in the foyer. It won Mr Mansell five grands prix in 1991. He still races in the British Touring Car Championships.

He has invested millions of pounds in the club since his return from exile on the Isle of Man in 1995. It now boasts a swimming pool, gymnasium, accommodation and a nine-month waiting list. He said he was reluctant to join a public campaign to save sterling and

was content to let other people do the talking: "I am not educated at all. It is very difficult to have a view."

"The fact that I'm hosting a conference like this is an indication of my concern. It is for people like John Redwood to articulate the arguments. But, like many patriotic Englishmen, I am concerned by my country being taken over by unelected officials."

Mr Redwood said: "Businessmen like Mr Mansell, who have made huge investments, would have to contribute towards the start-up costs of conversion to the single currency, which would cost this country at least £10 billion. The single currency will be all cost and no benefit. It will mean massively higher taxes as we harmonise with the rest of Europe."

Mr Redwood conceded that he was preaching to the converted, as the majority of the audience of 100 were firm opponents of monetary union. Even he succumbed to motor racing metaphors: "There is no point going round the track if you discover halfway round it does not work. It is very dangerous to go into the bend before you test the brakes. But Tony Blair has gone into full throttle before he has road-tested the euro-car."

Letters, page 23



Mansell with Redwood yesterday: there was much talk of taking bends too fast

Drugs push cost of crime up to £11bn

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE illegal drugs market in Britain is estimated to be worth up to £8.6 billion a year, according to a report published yesterday highlighting the cost of crime.

People spent £1.2 billion on prostitution and massage parlours and £700 million on stolen goods, according to the report by the Office of National Statistics. The figures suggest that drug dealing is the biggest illegal economic activity in the United Kingdom and that domestic production of cannabis plants is on a large scale.

Criminal activity would increase the gross domestic product by between £6.5 billion and £11.1 billion, the equivalent of a 1.5 per cent rise, the study said.

The estimated value of the illegal drugs market ranged from £3.9 billion - based on assumptions that Customs seize 20 per cent - to £8.6 billion a year. The figures could not be definitive, the study said, because of the difficulties in obtaining truthful answers and the fact that statistics produced by police and customs only reflected part of the scale of criminal activity in the country.

Problem users spent an estimated £2.2 billion on drugs in 1996, regular recreational users £1.6 billion - of which £1 billion went on cannabis, £208 million on amphetamines, £135 million on

cocaine and £125 million on Ecstasy. Occasional drug takers spent £250 million, including £139 million on cannabis and £69 million on amphetamines.

The study, published in *Economic Trends*, suggests domestic production of cannabis plants ranges from 567,000 to 2.3 million kilograms, at a cost price of between £100 million and £290 million and a street value of between £1.9 billion to £7.9 billion.

Amphetamine production is estimated to be between 840kg and 3,990kg, at a cost value of between £400,000 and £2 million and a street value of between £88 million and £318 million. The production of Ecstasy is estimated at between £2.7 million and £13 million at cost value and between £55 million and £259 million on the streets.

Thieves receive between £900 million and £1.68 billion from selling stolen goods and fences make a net profit of between £450 million and £870 million. The study estimates that illegal gambling is worth about £800 million a year.

The research also highlights huge amounts of money involved in prostitution and its associated industries. Street prostitution has an estimated annual revenue of £9.5 million, while massage parlours and saunas generate £93 million.

Hague says Tory policies alienated local voters

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE spoke to 1,500 mostly Labour delegates from local government yesterday and admitted that the policies of successive Tory governments in taking powers away from town halls had alienated voters and local councillors.

Looking relaxed and confident throughout his first speech since recovering from a recent sinus operation, the Tory leader said that the policies had contributed to the loss of public trust in his party that culminated in last year's overwhelming electoral defeat.

Mr Hague appealed for support from party activists and pledged a fresh start in relations between central and local government. He told the Local Government Association conference in Bournemouth that he would start making amendments next week by launching the "biggest listen-

ing exercise ever carried out by a political party in this country".

The initiative, "Listening to Britain", will involve front bench Tories touring the country to hear people's views. "Never again will people be able to say the Conservative Party is out of touch with the British people," Mr Hague said.

He added: "We are not going to be wedded to all the policies we carried out when we were last in office." A Tory government would consider stripping away central controls, including capping, imposed on town halls by past Tory administrations.

Mr Hague conceded that the poll tax of the late Eighties had brought relations between the Tories and local government "to their lowest point". This and the relentless centralising tendencies of the Conservatives had led to a

"vicious spiral" downwards in electoral support and turnout at local elections.

With an eye both on recent allegations of sleaze in town halls in Doncaster and Scotland and on the Government's impending local government White Paper, which is expected to propose tough new council watchdogs, Mr Hague called for independent audit committees with powers to investigate and to stamp out corruption and bad practice in local government.

He supported the creation of a criminal offence of misusing public office, to apply to elected members and officers. He criticised the Government for taking away more powers from the local authorities through education reforms and centrally appointed Regional Development Associations. "The most powerful, centrally-run gangs ever seen in this country".

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Farmer calls for court ban on gene test crops

AN ORGANIC vegetable farmer claims the Government allowed genetically engineered maize to be grown near his sweetcorn crop in disregard of the law, the High Court heard yesterday.

In a legal challenge which could have implications for farmers intending to grow genetically modified crops, Guy Watson is seeking leave to appeal against a decision made by the John Prescott, the environment secretary, not to halt seed trials near his farm in Devon.

The challenge is also against a similar decision made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food concerning trials on land at Hood Barton, near Totnes, Devon, as well as a decision to allow the release of genetically modified organisms.

Mr Watson of Riverford Farm, claims he faces financial ruin if the genetically engineered maize planted just over a mile from his crops flowers this week and pollinates his organic sweetcorn.

"It would cost me between £10,000 and £20,000 alone in terms of loss of the sweetcorn crop this year - never mind the damage to my reputation as a credible organic farmer. If the consumer chooses to eat organic food then they have a right to expect that and only that," he said. In court, coun-

Deborah Colclutt reports on fears that cross-pollination could ruin an organic business

sel for Mr Watson, whose £1.5 million mixed organic vegetable and dairy farm on 800 acres has made him a leading supplier to supermarkets and cooperatives in Britain, stressed that it was a race against the clock.

Michael Fordham, QC, told the court it would have to "move speedily" to give protection to Mr Watson's crop. He was told by the judge, Mr Justice Jowitt, that he was "hoping for the moon" if he believed the case could go ahead in the coming days.

The judge stressed that it would be unfair to expect government lawyers and those acting for Sharpes International, which developed the seeds, to prepare all their evidence so quickly on such highly technical matters.

The hearing was preceded by a demonstration organised by Friends of the Earth pro-

testers who marched with placards saying "No to Frankenstein's food". It comes after a series of attacks on genetically engineered crops throughout Britain by saboteurs who claim seed trials are being embarked upon without the proper government consent and public consultation.

The court heard yesterday that Mr Watson was not asking for a ruling on the issue of cross-pollination but rather for the consent for the seed trials to be considered because it was procedurally flawed.

The government advisers on seed trials, the Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment, reported that the likelihood of cross-pollination in Mr Watson's case was "zero" because of the distance involved.

Mr Watson, 38, claims that because of prevailing winds in the valley and the need to prevent one ear of his sweetcorn coming into contact with genetically engineered maize "zero likelihood" rather than "zero guarantee" is not good enough.

He said: "Organic food is all about marketing and winning consumer trust. If you lose that trust then you lose that business. It's as simple as that. I employ 70 people and have lived on this farm all my life. I'm not prepared to lose it



Protesters outside the High Court yesterday are concerned that pollen from genetically modified crops will pollute nearby organic produce

all." Mr Fordham told the court there was also a legal difference of opinion over the risks of cross-pollination. The seed trials themselves were also flawed, Mr Fordham suggested, because

they were being carried out by the wrong agents. The National Institute of Agricultural Botany, a government-linked group which registers new crop strains, was licensed by MAFF on behalf of Sharpes

International instead of the seed company and the Ministry of Agriculture running the trials. The representative for the government ministries told the court that the correct

procedure had been followed. In addition, counsel for the Department of the Environment, Mark Hoskins, told the court that the maize strain in question, T.25, has already been approved by the Euro-

pean Commission and member states and is about to be licensed in France after which it will be available for general sale to anyone. The judge is due to give his decision later today.

dry policies cal voters

New peer joins call for delay

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A GOVERNMENT adviser joined the call for a temporary ban on commercial plantings of genetically modified crops yesterday.

Chris Haskins, nominated as one of Labour's new working peers and chairman of Northern Foods and Express Dairies, said concerns about the environment and safety needed to be addressed.

However, he feared there could be a trade war with America, where many of the gene-altered crops that are coming into Britain or are being tested here have been approved. "If we can deal with the trade arguments then yes, my instinct is for a moratorium," he said.

Mr Haskins, who is a member of the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development, said a breathing space of three to five years was needed so that the public could regain confidence in government scientific opin-

ion. He was sure that, if properly scientifically managed, genetically modified crops could be a benefit, especially in the developing world.

"I am sure they [gene altered crops] will have a much greater appeal to the poorer parts of Africa than to the rich people of Hampstead. When you are poor and hungry you take risks with your food. When you are rich you do not take risks," he said.

Mr Haskins said it was interesting to note that in America and Canada, where public concern over gene altered crops was negligible, the death rate from food born disease was far higher than in Britain. "There, the rate of mortality from food diseases is six times what it is in Britain. Equally they, the Americans, have taken the issue in their stride whereas the Europeans are taking the matter extremely seriously."

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Voices raised in protest at British Library charging plan

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Library is seeking its customers' views on the imposition of an annual charge for the use of its facilities, slimming down its services or reducing its collecting activities.

However, Brian Lang, the chief executive, said that charging was an option that could not be ignored because the library desperately needed an extra £8 million to bring acquisition and conservation spending to a "minimum acceptable level".

He said that charging £300 a year could generate an annual income of up to £6 million. The Government had already "advised" the library that it could not expect any cash increase in the next three years on a grant of £80.45 million. Such constraints had forced the management to act.

The consultation document points out that, in 1996-97, the library acquired 2.4 million items, catalogued almost 1 million items, maintained 353 miles of stock and preserved 235,000 volumes. The charging options include allowing five or ten visits free; charging "differentially between commercial and non-commercial users"; and charging for weekday use rather than Saturdays. Alternatively, the library suggests "reducing or withdrawing from certain activities".

Brian Lake, secretary of the Regular Readers pressure group, whose 600 members campaigned against the library's move to St Pancras, said the proposals were outrageous. How, he asked, would the library make a distinction between commercial and non-commercial? "It is ludicrous. How do you decide whether an author writing a book is commercial? Jeffrey Archer is probably commercial. But how does he differ from A.N. Other who is just doing a book and hoping to make 50 quid out of it?" He said the proposals

"undermine the basic principles of libraries as providers of information. They have got to go back to Government. For the Government to wash its hands of the project is ludicrous."

Dr Lang said that readers' views "will help the British Library Board construct a new strategic framework". From its new home in St Pancras, and its supply base in Yorkshire, it could offer the best library service in the world. "But current resource constraints will not allow us to fulfill that potential. Tough decisions are necessary."

Copies of the British Library Strategic Review Consultation Paper are being sent this week to some 5,000 of its 60,000 readers; further copies will be available in the library, which has about 9,000 visits a week. Comments are invited by August 28.

DAVID BURNER

£20m grant to rebuild heart of Manchester

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

MICHAEL HESELTINE announced a £20 million lottery grant yesterday to build a Millennium Quarter in Manchester, completing the regeneration of the city centre after the IRA bomb in June 1996.

The grant ensures the completion of one of the most ambitious urban design programmes in Britain, after the heart of the city was destroyed by the largest bomb exploded in Britain since the Second World War.

The £40 million project is designed to open up 6.8 hectares around the cathedral, which had been blighted by the Arndale shopping centre and roads carrying through traffic. At its heart will be the new civic Exchange Square, featuring artificial palm trees and a waterless river, linking the Corn Exchange to the city's retail centre. There will be a new city park beside the

cathedral, a visitor centre focusing on the city's medieval past and green spaces along the banks of the River Irwell. The Urbis centre, a multimedia museum, will concentrate on city life around the world and chart Manchester's history.

The £20 million announced yesterday comes from the Millennium Commission. The whole Millennium Quarter project will cost £40 million — the balance coming from the European Union and private investment.

Mr Heseltine, a Millennium Commissioner, announced the award at a reception at Manchester town hall. He said: "It is very much one of the jewels in the crown of the Millennium Commission. It is one of the biggest projects, at £40 million, that we have done."

The scale of the redevelopment work already appearing

in Manchester is an indication that this major city is ready to meet the challenges of the third millennium.

Much of the city centre remains a building site as repair and construction work to clear the bomb damage goes on. Huge concrete foundations are now in place at the corners of what will be the largest Marks & Spencer store in Europe. The Millennium Quarter is seen by the city council as the final piece of the jigsaw in a reconstruction estimated to cost around £400 million.

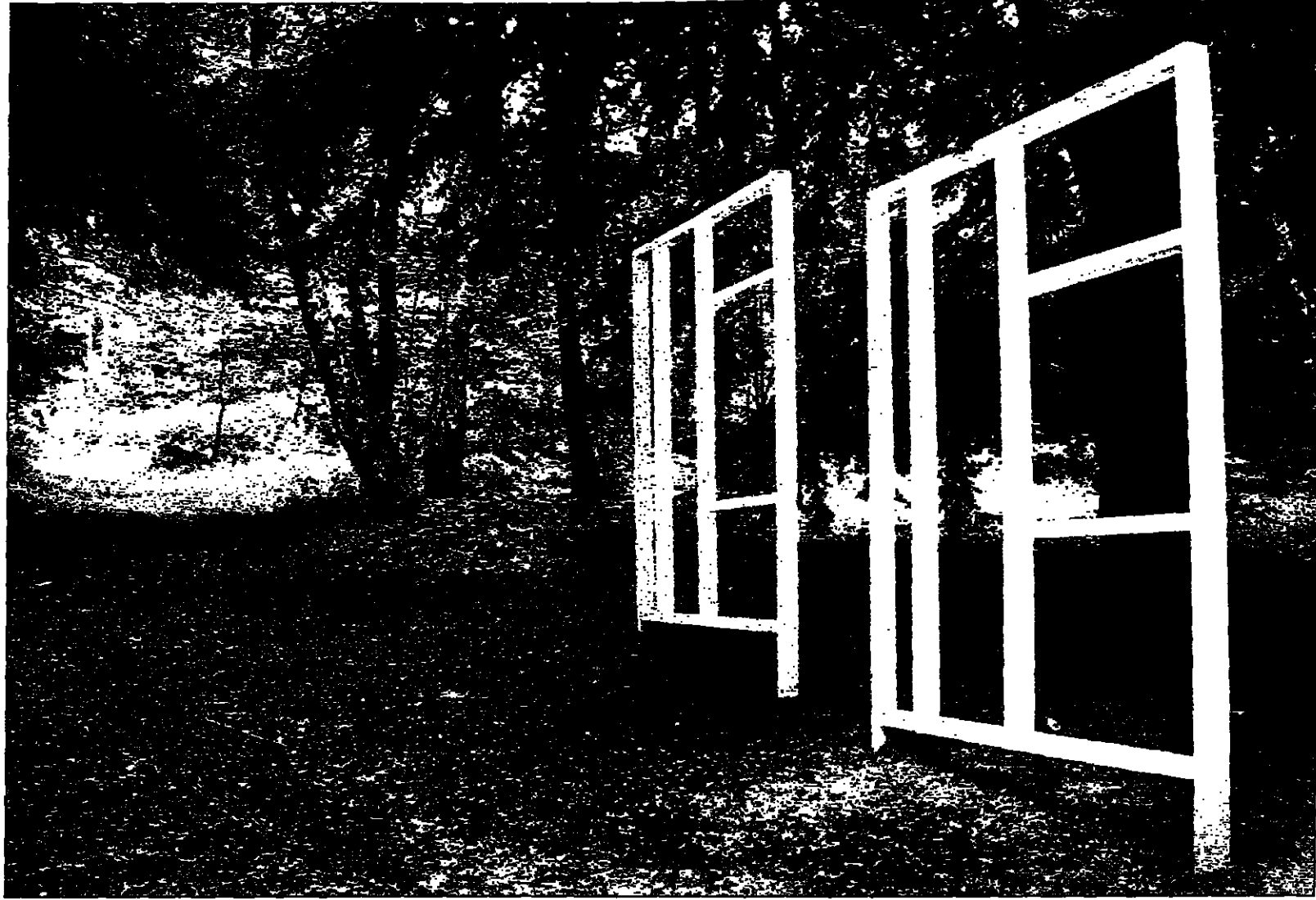
Richard Leese, leader of Manchester City Council, said: "The areas, including the public open spaces, will be dedicated to relaxation and entertainment. The project will greatly add to the quality of life and sense of wellbeing enjoyed by Manchester residents, who quite rightly sought more open space in the consultation after the bomb."

Howard Bernstein, chairman of a task force called Manchester Millennium, which was set up in the aftermath of the bombing, said the grant completed the main public funding plans for the Millennium Quarter.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary and chairman of the Millennium Commission, said the quarter would highlight cultural aspects of a vibrant city: "It will also open up to the general public greater access to education and exploration."



A model of the Urbis centre, a multimedia museum



Our door is always open: the National Lottery gave £5,000 for a series of wooden sculptures in Bestwood Country Park, near Nottingham

£5,000 buys bus shelter in the middle of a wood

BY A CORRESPONDENT

ARTISTS have been given a £5,000 National Lottery grant to create sculptures of a bus shelter and empty door frames among trees in a country beauty spot. Visitors criticised the

scheme yesterday as "a stupid waste of money" after the sculptures appeared in Bestwood Country Park, near Nottingham. A team of artists was given the money to create urban designs in a rural environment.

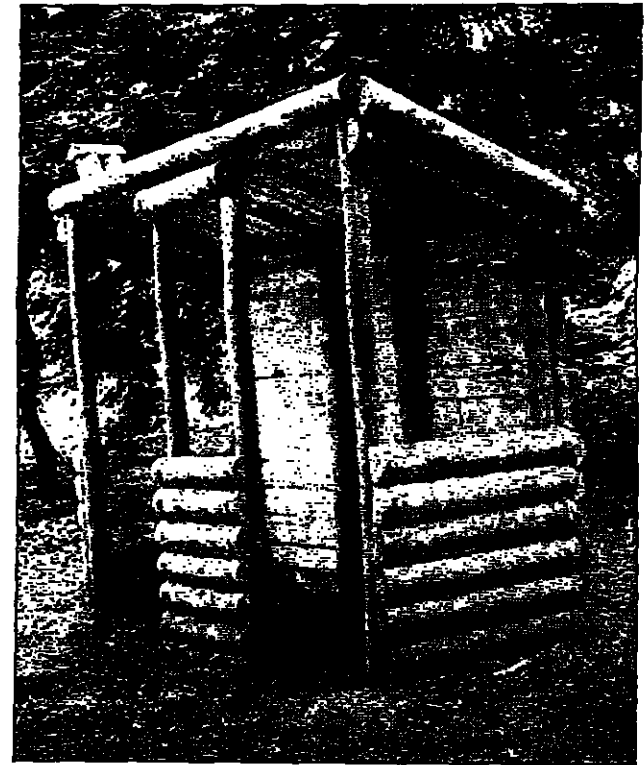
Gedling Borough Council put up £600 towards the cost of the project. Alison Clarke, council art development officer, said: "We thought local people would be behind it."

A National Lottery Arts Council spokesman said: "The grant came through our Arts for Everyone scheme. The Bestwood Park project met one of the criteria for cash by getting young people involved." One of the artists, Kate

Squires, said: "When we were building them, a lot of people stopped to look, which is what art is all about. We have made something a little different, which everybody will grow to love."

But some residents take a different view. One of them, Stephanie Graham-MacLeod, of Bestwood Park, said: "They just look silly. The money it cost to put them there could have been so much better spent."

Local children are in favour of the sculptures, however. Daniel Marrow, 12, of Bestwood Park, said: "They are really interesting. It's nice walking through the woods and seeing these works of art among the trees."



On the road to nowhere: the wooden bus shelter

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Provincial theatres hit by cuts in grants

BY DALYA ALBERGE

PROVINCIAL theatres are struggling to survive, with 33 repertory companies facing deficits totalling more than £10 million.

Reductions in funding levels have led to severe cuts in in-house productions, with Scarborough's down by 50 per cent in the past two years; a cut in cast sizes, with the average at Derby Playhouse down by 42 per cent; and increases in average ticket prices of 90.3 per cent in England and 105 per cent in Scotland.

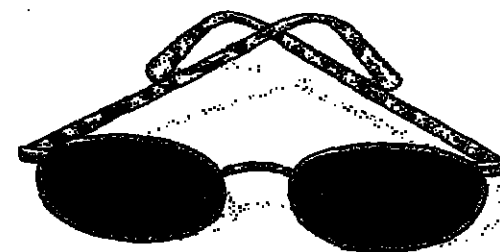
The findings were published yesterday by the National Campaign for the Arts, an independent organisation representing hundreds of arts bodies. Jennifer Edwards, its director, said: "Unless the Government takes action to remedy the years of neglect, it is no exaggeration to state that we face a real tragedy equal to anything fictional appearing on our stages."

The campaign found that the value of annual Arts Council grants to theatres had fallen by 13 per cent or more than £6 million in real terms since 1992.

The report notes that, while repertory theatres earn about half their income from audiences, a quarter from local authorities and a quarter from government, public subsidy is 90 per cent in The Netherlands, 85 per cent in Germany and 73 per cent in France.

A debate on the revival of provincial theatre is to be held in the House of Lords next Tuesday, when the Government announces its spending review.

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The economy, not sleaze, will determine Labour's fate

WILLIAM HAGUE has unquestionably scored a hit on Tony Blair this week. Exaggerated, over-the-top and unfair in detail, the charge of "cronyism" has nonetheless struck a chord with headline writers and may stick. It is Mr Hague's best soundbite so far. The Government may also have to act more swiftly than it is currently planning to tighten the rules on contacts between officials/advisers and lobbyists. But has this week been, as Mr Hague asserted, "a defining moment in the record of the Government"? This is not, of course, the same as

a turning point in new Labour's fortunes which Mr Hague sensibly did not claim. Yet damaging though the charges have been for Mr Blair's attempt to nurture purer than pure image, I doubt whether this week will be remembered as a defining moment. Allegations about "sleaze" and wrongdoing generally make a lasting impact on the public only when other things are going wrong for a Government. And that has not yet happened. The Major Government suffered from the cash-for-questions affair and parallel "sleaze" charges mainly

because the public had already become more hostile because of the recession, tax increases and Tory splits on Europe. This week's events are essentially background noise, mainly of interest to the political world. What really matters is the state of the economy. As Kenneth Clarke said yesterday in his Press Gallery speech, politics will become serious again when unemployment starts to rise. Precisely. The key will be whether there is just a

slowdown in growth or a prolonged downturn. Mr Clarke said he was "ever more convinced that we are heading for a very hard bump". Gordon Brown yesterday repeated his confidence that a recession would be avoided and the economy would continue to grow, albeit more slowly, to justify his claims about moving away from a stop-go/boom-bust economy. Mr Brown and his advisers have been waiting for some time

for evidence of what he has called "a necessary slowdown". This is why they were relieved at last week's MORI poll showing a sharp drop in the economic optimism index. After all, the sooner the slowdown, the quicker that interest rates will peak, and possibly come down, and the softer the landing should be. Hence, Mr Brown was clearly relieved that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee did not raise interest rates again yesterday. This is despite the committee's evident worries about the pace of pay increases.

These fears are shared by the Chancellor, who gave warning yesterday that unsustainable wage rises would lead to higher inflation and pressure on interest rates. The fate of the Government will depend on whether Mr Clarke or Mr Brown is right. If there is a hard landing — possibly after further increases in interest rates — then not only will there be a wave of redundancies and a sharp rise in unemployment but many of the Government's other plans will be threatened. The ambitious hopes behind the Welfare to Work

programme will be hard, if not impossible, to achieve and the safety margins built into the Government's public spending plans will vanish. At present, most economists still believe that we will have a relatively short-lived slowdown, not a recession on the scale of the early 1980s and early 1990s. That is what will really define the record of the Blair Government and show whether it is different from its Labour predecessors in the 1960s and 1970s.

PETER RIDDELL

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Peers will oppose reduction in gay age of consent

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER



Young condemns "paedophile's charter"

AN ALL-PARTY coalition of peers is preparing a campaign to overturn the decision by MPs to reduce the age of homosexual consent to 16. Encouraged by this week's vote on student fees, in which the House of Lords inflicted on Labour the worst defeat of any government since 1913, the peers are confident that they will secure enough support. When the Crime and Disorder Bill came before the Commons last month, MPs voted by a majority of 207 in favour of an amendment that would lower the age of homosexual consent from 18. Baroness Young, former Tory leader in the Lords, has tabled amendments to overturn the decision. Yesterday she wrote to almost 200 peers asking them to support her amendments when the Bill returns to the Lords on July 22. The last time the issue came up in the Lords, in 1994, peers voted by 245 to 71 against a reduction of the age of consent to 16. Lady Young, who is planning a mass meeting of peers before the vote, said in the letter that an NOP poll last November showed that 73 per cent of the public opposed lowering the age of consent. She added: "This is the thin end of the wedge. Already

there is talk by homosexual activists of an age of consent of 14, gay marriage and adoption rights. This move would promote homosexuality among the young." The letter concluded: "As the Archbishop of Canterbury has argued, it will send the wrong signal to young people. I strongly urge you to come to the House and vote to keep the age of homosexual consent at 18." Lady Young told *The Times*: "I think this is a paedophile's charter. It is a matter of principle, a matter of protecting the young." In the free vote, many Tory and crossbench peers are expected to support Lady Young, as are at least 20 Labour peers. Lord Evans of Parkside, former Labour MP for St Helens North, said: "I was one of those who voted against a

reduction of the age of consent to 16 when it last came up in the Commons. I have no reason whatsoever to change my view." Lord Islywn, who as Roy Hughes was Labour MP for Newport, Gwent, said that many peers shared his opposition to a lower age of consent. In the Commons he voted in favour of an increase to 21. "I have spoken to many of my colleagues and they have the same view," he said. "I believe that young boys at 16 are very vulnerable. Once they get in the clutches of those people, there is no way back." He added: "I think it is odd on that it will be defeated in the Lords." The former Labour MPs Lord Dean of Beswick and Lord Orme will oppose the Government. Lord Dean said: "I won't be supporting the age of 16. I think it is far too young. I don't think it is by any means a natural tendency. The more it is made easily available, the more it will develop." Lord Stoddart of Swindon, a former Labour whip, said: "I see no reason why it should be reduced. Young boys can quite easily be misled between the ages of 16 and 18." Other Labour peers expected to back the campaign are Lord Mason of Barnsley, Lord Stallard and Lord Lofthouse of Pontefract, a former Commons deputy speaker.



Open for business: David Clark's new electronic ministerial red box with its bulky, heavy predecessor

Technology transforms red box

BY POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE red boxes traditionally used by ministers to carry government papers moved closer to extinction yesterday when the latest high-tech alternative was unveiled in Whitehall. David Clark, the Public Services Minister, demonstrated a prototype laptop computer that could take the place of the heavy red briefcases within months if his colleagues choose to use it. The computer, the second of its kind to be "road-tested" by Mr Clark, will give

ministers instant access to much of the information now presented to them on paper. The first model, which was shown to ministers and journalists at the beginning of the year, has been refined to create a smaller, lighter version. The operator's identity is verified with a smartcard rather than a signet ring before a password secures access to the "virtual red box" programme. For the moment, plans to use either a fingerprint or the iris of the eye as a personal marker have been dropped, although Dr Clark said that such technology might be introduced later. A

voice recognition facility has also been ruled out because it proved impractical. Dr Clark said: "The problem is, you have got to spend quite a long time in getting the machine to recognise your voice." The traditional red box has been used to carry ministerial papers since the last century. They are built to withstand most accidents and, being lined with lead, weigh up to 30lbs. The virtual red box will provide obvious advantages, but Dr Clark said that they would not be compulsory. "The whole philosophy is to make life easier for ministers."

Ministers accused in mines Bill row

BY POLLY NEWTON

THE Government was accused yesterday of weakening its commitment to an international ban on landmines. A special Commons sitting is being held today to pass the Landmines Bill, which will allow Britain to ratify the Ottawa Convention before the anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The convention aims to eradicate landmines worldwide. But the Liberal Democrats and the Tories say that the Bill would allow British soldiers to handle, store or transport landmines and advise in laying them, provided they did not actually place the weapons themselves. Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said the Government was doing one thing and saying another. The Foreign Office denied the claims, saying that the Bill merely had a clause to prevent British servicemen from being held responsible for the actions of forces from states that were not party to the convention. **Labour's choice** The Labour Party appointed Margaret McDonagh, a 37-year-old Blair loyalist, as its general secretary yesterday. She is the first woman to hold the post, which she takes over from Tom Sawyer, who was made a life peer in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

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Nigerians await post mortem

A nation's future is in the hands of international pathology team, David Orr writes in Lagos

ISOLATED outbreaks of violence erupted in Lagos yesterday but the unrest sparked by the death of Nigeria's opposition leader, Chief Moshood Abiola, largely gave way to a tense calm.

Residents of the commercial capital returned to work and were going about their daily lives in anticipation of post-mortem examination results confirming the cause of the chief's death on Tuesday. There has been speculation that the 60-year-old was poisoned while in detention.

An international team of pathologists, including Dr Richard Shepherd, from St George's Hospital, south London, was arriving in Nigeria last night. It is expected that Chief Abiola's body will be flown from the capital, Abuja, to Lagos, where the post mortem will take place today. The British High Commission clinic in Lagos has been offered as a venue.

There has been some concern at the high expectations being raised among the public, a High Commission spokesman said yesterday. The testing of samples from the autopsy could take some time. It might be some days or even longer before conclusive results are released. The outcome of the pathologists' ex-



Mourners at Chief Abiola's house in Lagos yesterday as his family and supporters waited for the report on the detained leader's death

amination will be crucial in determining whether Africa's most populous nation moves towards a peaceful future or slides into the kind of chaos of which this week's unrest was perhaps only an intimation. While the more reasonable of Chief Abiola's supporters might accept the official explanation that he died of a heart attack, few can doubt that he would still be alive had he not

been kept in detention for four years by the military.

The body of Chief Abiola is due to be buried either in the grounds of his Lagos villa or in his home town of Abeokuta this weekend. The event promises to provide a rallying point for his supporters, most of whom come from the southwest. A government delegation is expected to attend the funeral. Yesterday the head of

state, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, presided over a second session of his ruling military council to discuss a plan to restore civilian rule and free political prisoners.

General Abubakar sacked his Cabinet on Wednesday before making a televised broadcast in which he called the death of Chief Abiola "a national tragedy" and "one of the saddest moments of our

lives". The general succeeded the widely reviled General Sani Abacha, who died of a heart attack last month.

General Abubakar, who insists he assumed power reluctantly, has been consulting opposition members, traditional rulers, union chiefs and leading business figures in an effort to arrive at some consensus about the country's political future. He has stated his

commitment to handing power to a democratically elected civilian government. In coming days he is expected to make another televised address, outlining a programme for transition to democracy.

Many of the recent deaths are understood to have been caused by fighting between the southwestern Yoruba and northern Hausa-Fulani ethnic groups.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Euro creche pair accused of rape

Brussels: Two men have been charged with raping and indecently assaulting children of European Commission officials in Brussels, the *European Voice* weekly reported. The accused men, an Italian and a Spaniard, were employed at the Commission-owned crèche near the Commission headquarters.

They left their jobs caring for Eurocrats' youngsters after allegations last year of child abuse involving infants attending the crèche in Boulevard Clovis. Now they are back in Italy and Spain but will be required to return to Belgium to face a trial which is unlikely to begin before next year. Both men say they are innocent of the charges.

Ten killed in Azores quake

Lisbon: An earthquake has hit the Portuguese Azores islands in the mid-Atlantic, killing ten people and injuring about 90, civil protection officials said. Antonio Guterres, the Prime Minister, left for the hardest-hit island, Faial, to inspect damage as the central Government sent doctors and nurses, medical supplies and sniffer dogs to help find people feared buried under the rubble. The epicentre of the earthquake was in the sea between Faial and Pico islands. São Miguel, the biggest island in the archipelago, was not reported to have suffered any damage. (Reuters)

Algiers rebels shot dead

Algiers: Ahmane Khelifi, the leader of the Armed Islamic Group in Algiers, was reported shot and killed near the Algerian capital with ten of his lieutenants. In another incident, ten civilians were killed and 21 injured when a bomb hidden in a bag ripped through a crowded flea market in a poor district of Algiers, security sources said. The market place was full of people selling second-hand furniture and used spare parts to scrape a living. (Reuters, AFP)

Briton jailed in Manila

Manila: John Pidden, right, a British tourist, has been sentenced to up to 14 years in prison on charges of molesting an eight-year-old Filipina girl while talking to her mother. According to the mother's testimony, Pidden, 49, approached her and her daughter while they were at a kiosk in Manila's Rizal Park last August and sat next to them at a table. She said that he had touched her daughter's leg and thigh. (AP)



Seven die in bazaar blast

Istanbul: An explosion believed to have been caused by a gas leak ripped through a crowded tourist market here in Turkey's biggest city, killing seven people. A number of foreigners were among more than 100 people injured. The blast was at the doorway of Istanbul's 17th-century Egyptian Bazaar, known as the Spice Market. Part of the monumental gateway collapsed, trapping people under rubble. (Reuters)

Amnesty for child soldiers

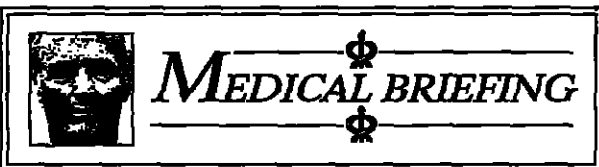
Freetown: Sierra Leone's child combatants, estimated to number more than 4,000, have received a government amnesty. Vice-President Albert Demby announced. Unicef officials say that children attached to armed groups in Sierra Leone will now not face prosecution for their actions during the civil war. Mr Demby gave no details about the nature of the amnesty. (AFP)

Meticulous operation to investigate suspicions of foul play

THE atmosphere in a post-mortem room usually lacks the sense of drama of the operating theatre, and the need for strict asepsis is obviously lacking. The gowns and aprons worn by attendants and pathologists are to protect their own clothing rather than the patients'.

The instruments will be laid out beside the stainless steel or marble-topped tables which have drainage gutleys running down them.

The instruments look like those which were issued to



military and naval surgeons at the turn of the century and include a short knife with a broad blade, the standard post-mortem knife, a long knife with a long blade, the brain knife, a huge knife such as was used in the past for amputations, as well as an

assortment of scissors and probes — some blunt, some sharp and some with different lengths of blades which are used for intestines.

The average overweight 60-year-old who dies suddenly in shock, complaining of chest pain and faintness, would

have already been opened up by the post-mortem room technicians before the pathologist appeared.

In the case of Chief Moshood Abiola, it is likely that the pathologists would want to inspect the whole body carefully, and then for the operating pathologist to open it up himself.

He will then proceed to examine the contents of the body.

Tension will mount in the post-mortem room as the coronary arteries are opened

and searched for a thrombus, which is likely to have been the cause of death in this case. The thrombus will probably be found blocking an artery.

The pathologist may well pick the clot out of the artery with a pair of small forceps and hold it up to those watching in the same way as a policeman exhibits a murder weapon in a film.

Although the Nigerian Government must be preparing for such conclusive findings, these are not always present in cases of sudden

death from coronary arterial disease, and it is not always possible to demonstrate the thrombus responsible.

In any case, the heart will certainly be taken away for detailed examination. The rest of the patient's organs, including the brain, are also examined carefully for any other incidental diseases.

It seems likely that in Chief Abiola's case there will also be an analysis of stomach contents and of the blood, so that everybody may be certain that foul play is excluded.

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Arafat renews vow to declare independence

YASSIR ARAFAT yesterday repeated his threat to declare Palestinian independence on or after May 4 next year, the deadline set for the conclusion of final status peace talks with Israel which have been deadlocked since their formal opening in 1996.

This week's symbolic upgrading of the Palestinians' status at the United Nations followed four years in which Mr Arafat has stealthily built up a political entity that already looks very much like a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It is a huge step towards the imminent declaration of statehood," claimed Nabil Aboumeleh, a senior Arafat aide, referring to the 124-4 vote in which, apart from America, Israel could only muster support from Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

A senior Israeli official said that if Mr Arafat carried out his threat, Israel would annex most of the West Bank land not by then under full Palestinian control. Israeli military sources said that a crippling and indefinite blockade on the main Palestinian cities would also be imposed. Another step on the road to de facto independence came on Monday when Imad Falouji, the Palestinian Telecommunications Minister, told mobile phone users to cancel their subscriptions with Israeli providers.

He said that the 40,000 mobile phone users who now rely on Israel should switch to the Palestine Telecommunications Company (Paltel), which is poised to become the sole provider of the mobile service in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Paltel phones will join the other symbols of statehood

Palestinian self-rule areas display the trappings of statehood, writes

Christopher Walker in Ramallah

already in place, including a 30,000-strong police force, myriad government offices and an elected 88-seat legislature with its headquarters in Ramallah.

In Gaza, another potent but still unrealised symbol of statehood is the Gaza International Airport, which for now lacks only one essential ingredient — planes. The 1993 peace accords allowed for an airport to be built during the interim period but for security reasons it would only operate under Israeli supervision. Talks have dragged on without reaching any conclusion and most of the equipment necessary to make the airport fully operational is held up in German and Swedish ports and Israel's Ashdod harbour.

For now, Palestinian Airlines flies out of El-Arish in the Egyptian Sinai to Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Its fleet consists of two Fokker 50s and a Boeing 727, donated by a Saudi prince and currently under refit in Ireland.

In the Gaza Strip, where the Palestinian Authority has sole control of large areas, and the West Bank, where it controls only 3 per cent of the territory and an additional 27 per cent where it exercises jurisdiction under overall Israeli security responsibility, the new symbols of statehood are everywhere.

They range from the flag to stamps, passports and vehicle number plates — of great significance in a region where the colour of your plate can

prompt a stoning or even a shooting attack.

"Palestine is already recognised as a country," claimed Tawfiq Abu Houssa, a PLO activist. "It has embassies all over the world, a President who is treated on equal footing with [Israeli Prime Minister] Netanyahu. Our people are here and so is our land. The question is how much more territory can we rid of the occupation."

In addition to the conventional symbols of statehood, there are also many of the less salubrious facets of a modern Arab state such as endemic official corruption, autocratic rule, appalling prison conditions, more than occasional torture and a general low official regard for such basic rights as press freedom.



Binyamin Netanyahu, left, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, place the insignia of Chief of Staff of the Israeli Army on the Iranian-born General Shaul Mufaz in Jerusalem yesterday. He succeeds General Amnon Shahak

Israeli pilots refuse to fly after insurance dispute

By Christopher Walker

THE gung-ho image of the Israeli Air Force suffered a setback yesterday with the disclosure that hundreds of reservists are refusing to fly or reducing their flight time because of a dispute over insurance.

The Tel Aviv paper *Haaretz* said the unprecedented refusal to perform required duties applied to reserve

pilots and navigators in many air force squadrons. The crisis was triggered a few months ago when the air force told the reservists of a change in their insurance arrangements. The exact number of men involved is classified, but as reserve pilots and navigators continue to fly weekly until their mid-40s, it is estimated at several hundred.

The protesters, in what is commonly

regarded as the elite arm of the Israeli forces, objected to the new conditions, claiming that they were being discriminated against twice — by the insurance companies in comparison to reserve soldiers on the ground, and by the state in comparison to career pilots and navigators.

"Reservists cannot insure themselves against loss of the capacity to work as a result of flying, and the life

insurance they obtain privately would be valid during flights only if they paid a hefty premium," *Haaretz* reported.

The paper said the Defence Ministry team set up to resolve the crisis was expected to offer life insurance at "double or triple" the present scale without the reservists having to pay an additional premium or deal with a civilian insurance company.

Belly dancer ruling goes against envoy

Jerusalem: Ties between Israel and Egypt were strained yesterday by a Tel Aviv court ruling in the case between an Israeli belly dancer and the veteran Egyptian Ambassador (Christopher Walker writes).

It said Muhammad Bassiouny must accept papers citing him as the defendant in a £173,000 civil suit filed by the dancer. Shalomit Shalom, who claims he tried to rape her at the house of a plastic

surgeon last August. "The decision ensures that the case will continue even if he [the ambassador] leaves his diplomatic posting in Israel," said Nitzana Darshan-Leitner, a lawyer. "No Israeli court has until now permitted the service of court papers on a diplomatic representative," she added.

The Tel Aviv magistrates' court will decide whether to lift Mr Bassiouny's diplomatic immunity on September 27.

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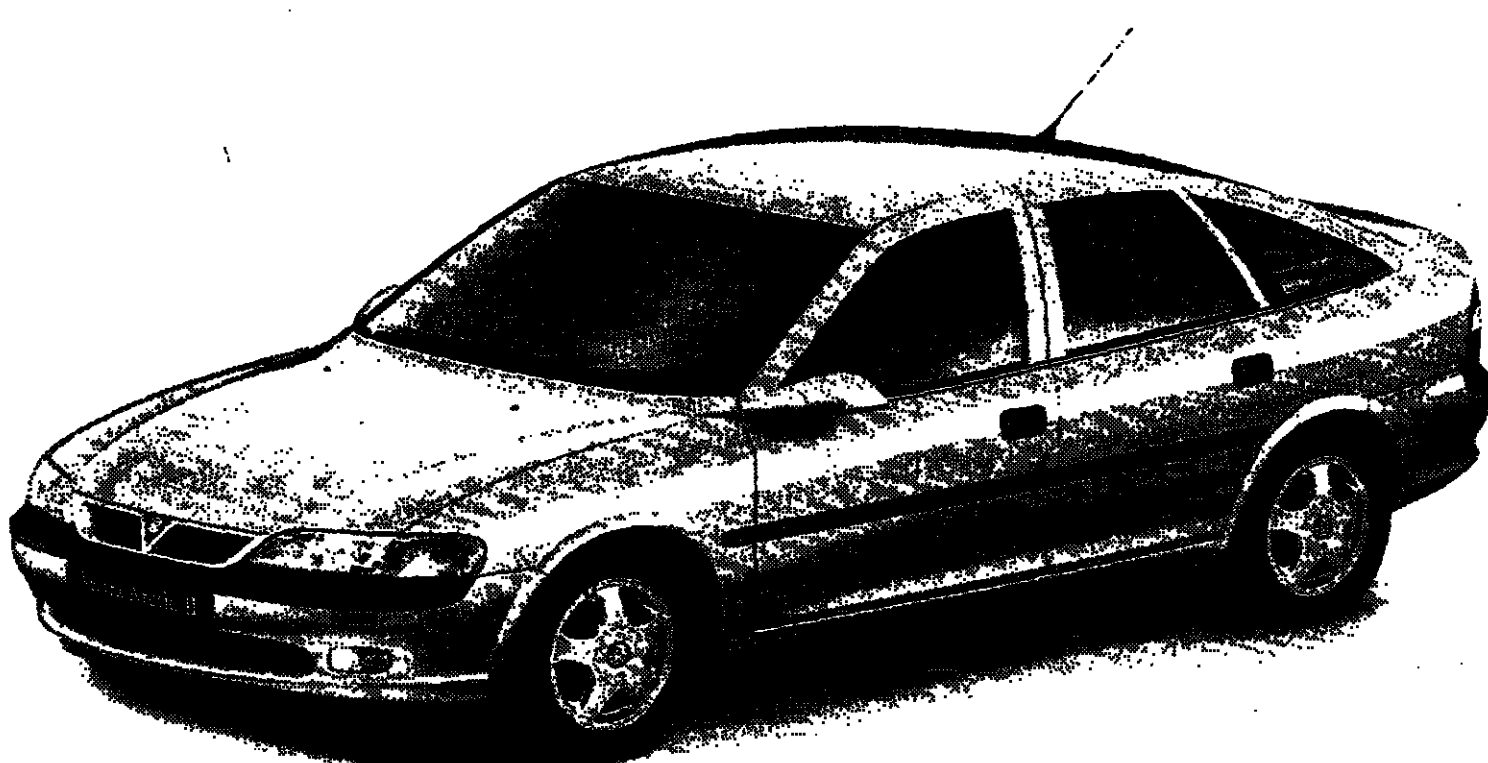
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Hong Kong's pride hit by airport chaos

OPERATIONS at Hong Kong's state-of-the-art airport at Chek Lap Kok, opened with fanfare by President Jiang Zemin of China just a week ago, continued to be in a state of near-bedlam yesterday.

The publicity hype lavished on the £12 billion airport has evolved into a public relations nightmare. The fourth day of operations yesterday saw more angry and often-famished passengers. Meanwhile, cargoes worth millions of pounds — wilting flowers, stinking seafood, rotting vegetables and fruit and out-of-date newspapers — have been dumped, with freight companies suffering huge losses.

The latest disaster comes a year after the British handover of the territory to China. In that time, the former colony has been struck by deadly avian flu and a "red tide" of poisonous algae which killed fish stocks.

The stock market has crashed, tourism has slumped and the property bubble has burst. The airport's formal

James Pringle on Communist mismanagement at territory's £12bn showpiece

opening on July 2 came a day after the first anniversary of the handover.

As tempers frayed at the airport, one passenger called police on his cellular phone after he and a planeload of arriving passengers had waited in their seats for two hours for buses to ferry them to the terminal.

The Legislative Council called a special session yesterday to discuss the airport crisis. Martin Lee, leader of the Democratic Party, accused airport officials of rushing the opening of Chek Lap Kok and making Hong Kong a "laughing stock of the world". Lau

Kong-wah, another legislator, said: "This was meant to be a first-class project but it has turned into a ninth-class airport and a disgrace."

Cheung Man-kyong, a Democratic Party legislator, addressed his remarks to Henry Townsend, chief executive of the airport authority. "May I ask Mr Townsend if he hears the Hong Kong people's common feeling of shame and remorse, and to consider resigning for your faults?"

Over the past few days, passengers have had a litany of complaints regarding long delays for flights; long periods of waiting inside aircraft to disembark; lost and delayed baggage; overcrowded restaurants in the terminal; inadequate toilet facilities; malfunctioning air-conditioning in stifling heat; phone booths without phones; and stalled escalators.

As I flew out of the airport this week, I received an embossed certificate lauding me "as one of our first travellers", but once on board the aircraft,



A backlog of tonnes of air freight at Chek Lap Kok after a faulty computer network played havoc with flights and cargo handling

the Dragon Air captain told passengers as the loaded plane sat for an hour on the runway: "Welcome to the chaos of the new airport."

One Chinese businessman was exasperated as he rushed from one boarding gate to

another across the vast canopied lounge while electronic flight departure notices kept flickering or went blank. "Will Hong Kong's troubles never end?" he asked. "I thought we would leave these problems behind us after the first anni-

versary." The litany of woes began with major faults developing in the vast computer network that handles passengers and cargo. The new airport, one of the largest infrastructure projects in the world, was launched in 1989

when Hong Kong was under British rule. Being opposed the airport at first, saying that its construction was aimed at crippling the territory's finances. But China's Communist leadership and Tung Chee-hwa, its appointed

Chief Executive in Hong Kong, have come to embrace Chek Lap Kok as a symbol of national unity and pride. No mention was made of Britain's major contribution at the formal opening of the airport last week.

World population has doubled in last 40 years, says UN

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ON JUNE 16 next year — give or take a few weeks — the world's population will reach six billion, a figure close to the total of all those who have ever lived on Earth until this century. It has taken less than 40 years for the population to double from the total of three billion in 1960, and only 11 years since the total was five billion.

Announcing this yesterday, the United Nations Population Fund said that more than 80 million people were being added to the total every year, and fertility rates were not expected to stabilise at replacement level until 2055.

Current medium-fertility projections show that the total will reach 9.4 billion by 2050 and 10.8 billion a century later. The world's population will ultimately stabilise at just under 11 billion around 2200.

But even a small increase in family size could make an enormous difference. If each family has statistically half a child less than replacement level, the total in 2150 will fall to 3.6 billion; with half a child above replacement rate, it will rise to 27 billion. Asia already accounts for over half the

world's population, with 3.5 billion people. Africa has 778 million, Europe 729 million and North America 304 million. In the coming years, however, the developed world will account for a smaller and smaller proportion, with only 10 per cent living in prosperous surroundings compared with 19 per cent today.

Although vigorous family planning policies are swiftly reducing the rates of increase, today's generation of young people is the largest ever recorded, with 1.16 billion people aged between 15 and 24. There are also more old people than ever before, with 560 million over 60. The rapid ageing of the world's population projects the proportion over 60 rising from 10 per cent in 1995 to 31 per cent in 2150.

In the past seven years the UN has revised its ultimate projection of 11 billion people downwards by 700,000, as contraception and family planning policies have had a greater impact than expected. But if fertility levels remain at 1990-95 levels until 2150, the global population would reach a catastrophically unsustainable 296 billion.

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Three daughters of the murder victim of Wilburn Henderson leave jail after witnessing his execution

Family marks mother's birthday by watching her killer die

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN A macabre ritual, the five offspring of a murdered Arkansas woman celebrated what would have been her 68th birthday by witnessing her killer's execution.

she owned at Fort Smith, near the Oklahoma border. Numerous appeals by Henderson, who maintained his innocence to the end, had frustrated seven successive execution dates.

Later Ms Palmer said Henderson had not suffered enough. "His was a perfect death. Mama's wasn't."

Byrd, 49, was beaten semi-conscious, tied to a truck and dragged for almost two miles along an asphalt road outside Jasper in East Texas.

gress does will bring my father back," she said. "I hope that my presence here to discuss the pain my family has suffered will help Congress to strengthen the law of the land."

Isolated Serbs quit Kosovo for safety

IN THE twilight lull between peace and war that has descended upon Kosovo, Albanians and Serbs have the opportunity to decide whether to stay, fight and perhaps die for their homeland, or else leave, relinquishing their positions to their opponents.



Anthony Loyd sees Belgrade's forces act with unexpected restraint against Albanian guerrillas in Suva Reka

ing the KLA. At times the military seems to be avoiding confrontation and the focus of real fighting is in the mountainous border region.

shut behind them like falling dominos. Regular troops arrived, followed by a new group, more menacing, in five armoured personnel carriers.

As Serb commanders struggle to produce an effective plan, more than 90 per cent of their armour and artillery sit idle in garrisons.

population doubled in last yrs, says UN



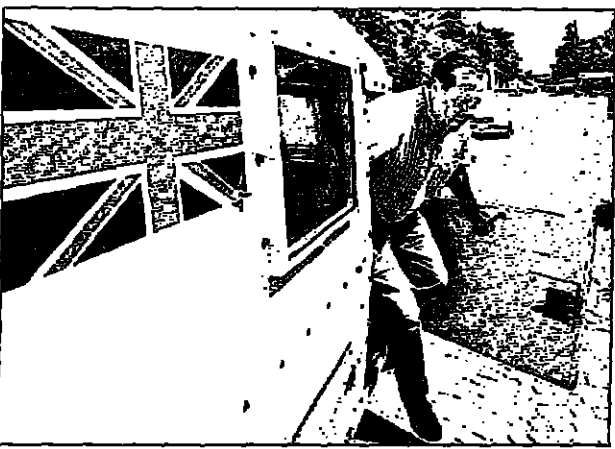
Amid rising tension in Kosovo, Serbian Orthodox nuns from a convent at Devic brick up a window. They said Albanians had broken in and stolen belongings

Silicone victims win \$3bn payout

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

TENS of thousands of women claiming they had been injured by silicone breast implants have won a \$3.2 billion (£2 billion) settlement, bringing to an end nearly a decade of a world-famous legal battle.

"I was relocated here with my family after we fled Knin," said Dragan, a 27-year-old Serb in Pristina. "We were promised a salary of 1,000 marks (£360) a month and certain security in a historical Serb land."



John Crossland of Britain arriving for a meeting of the international mission in Pristina yesterday

Clinton highlights plight of American Indians

PRESIDENT CLINTON called last night for special help for American Indians because of the "pathetic and inadequate" help traditionally given to them by Washington.

ed and isolated. The pre-recorded debate, set to be aired last night on the Public Broadcasting System's *Newsnight* with Jim Lehrer, is part of the President's Initiative on Race, a programme at the top of his agenda which has been much criticised for lack of effect.

licences, but most remain very poor, with few sources of income, and are plagued by alcoholism and truancy.

Mr Clinton said he did not know much about Indians until he ran for the presidency in 1992 and visited reservations. "They got the worst of both worlds," he said. "They weren't getting enough help, and they certainly didn't have enough responsibility and power to build a future."

Complete Home Office Solution

Advertisement for 'Complete Home Office Solution' featuring various computer and office equipment. Includes a list of features: 128MB RAM, 300MHz processor, 8.6GB hard disk, 56k modem, PC-TV system, 512K pipeline burst cache, 32x Max CD-ROM, VideoPhone Receiver, 3D waveable sound, Teletext and Video Capture, 4MB advanced graphics using system RAM, 15" SVGA colour screen (17" optional extra), Microsoft Windows 95, FREE Epson 300 colour printer (RPP £129), FREE A4 inkjet colour scanner (RPP £119), FREE Lotus SmartSuite 97 and GSP, encyclopaedia. Price: £999 + VAT, £1173.83 inc. VAT. Includes 'Our promise to you' and 'It's Time' slogans.

Advertisement for 'Personal loan rates from 10.1% APR'. Includes a table of loan options and contact information for Direct Line Personal Loans.

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Advertisement for 'Pentagon studies Chinese data leaks'. Includes text about the Pentagon investigating the second case of a US company sending data to Beijing that may have proved useful to the Chinese military.

SIX OF THE BEST

Finish off a summer slip dress with a delicate beaded necklace



PURPLE BEADED STRING NECKLACE, £15
A mixture of purple beads and crystals threaded on to lilac cotton string. Each set of crystals is said to give off a different aura, helping to create energy, inner calm or love.
Noel, available at Browns Focus, 38-39 South Molton Street, W1. (0171-629 0666) 9/10

PINK BEADED NECKLACE, £59
Antique-looking, with a bronze link chain and pale pink beads. Chain drops down into a V-neck jumper, velvet-trimmed cardigan or slip dress.
Rhona Sutton at Fenwick (0171-629 9121) 7/10



AQUA BAUBLE NECKLACE, £4.99
Tiny beads of aqua, sky blue and frosted glass hang from a beaded chain. Light and summery, at an affordable price.
Accessorize branches nationwide (0171-513 3000) 8/10

SHELL NECKLACE, £120
These tiny cone shells hang from a weather-worn chain interspersed with fine sand-coloured beads, giving an outdoor look.
Ericsson Beaman, 38 Elizabeth Street, SW1. (0171-259 0202) 10/10

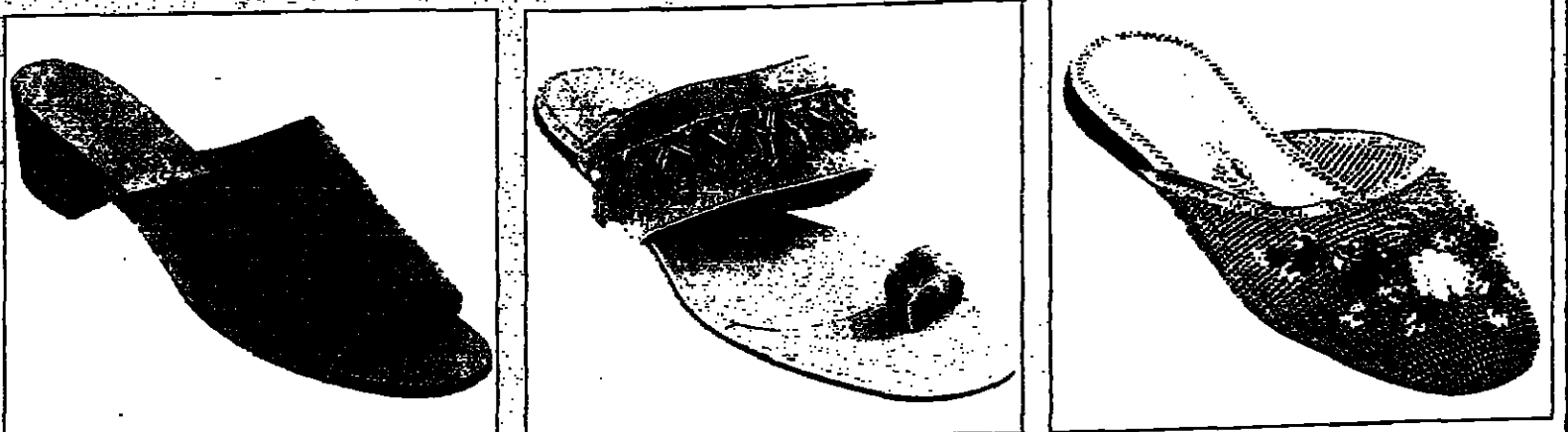


LARGE STONE NECKLACE, £89
An unusual mixture of fine beads, coloured pearls and large amethyst stones threaded on to wire. Great combination of shape, colour and texture, without being excessive.
Fenwick 10/10

FINE WIRE BEAD NECKLACE, £79
A wire coil which bursts into a mesh of metal thread glistening with translucent beads. Fragile, yet makes a real statement.
By Lissa, available at Fenwick 9/10

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

Mules to drool over



Pale blue suede mules, £95.50, by Russell & Bromley

Pony beaded thongs, from £195, by Gina Couture

Blue sequin-embroidered slippers, £20, from Paul Smith

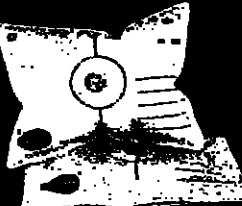


Snakeskin thongs, £275, by Manolo Blahnik

Navy suede flat sandals, £59.99, by LK Bennett

Cream flat thongs, £45, by Bertie

HOT TIP



Intrigue your friends this summer with the inflatable postcard, available in dual action colours. Just write a message in Biro, inflate and send it on its way.
£2.50 from The Conran Shop (0171-589 7401)

Among my favourite books when I was small was a series of autobiographical children's novels by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Starting with *Little House in the Big Woods*, they told the story of a 19th-century American childhood in a family whose indomitable pioneering spirit was matched only by its extreme gentility.
Half the time Laura and her sister, Mary, were grappling with grizzly bears and naked, tomahawk-wielding native Americans, and the other, they were sitting up at the table like little ladies, with their nicely curled hair, repeating their catechisms.
Of course, I envied Laura her thrilling encounters with grizzlies and papooses, but what I envied most of all was the fact that when summer came, she would be allowed to run about barefoot. I longed

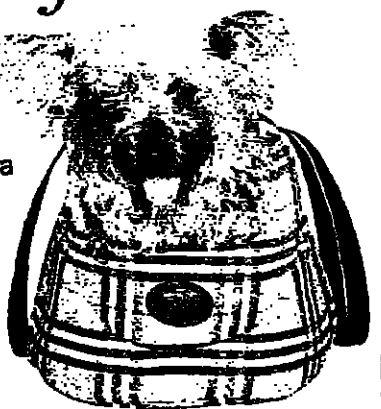
to run about barefoot, but was never allowed. And if ever I "misaid" my shoes, I was sure to step on a bee and get stung, thus reinforcing the parental interdict on bare feet.
Well, now I am old and can put what I like on my feet, and with the weather turning so encouragingly from perishing cold to sultry and overcast, I find myself wanting to feel the ground beneath my toes. Of course, if you must spend the summer in the city, you can't really dispense with shoes altogether, so the next best thing is a pair of sandals — not tottering, high-heeled sandals with fussy straps, but mules or flip-flops — dead flat, or with a little, flattening heel. It is a perfect look for the holidays, but there are also plenty of examples chic enough for the office — Manolo Blahnik's absolutely flat, minimalist blue-grey flip-flops, for a start, £200 (but look out for the sale later this month), or Joseph Azagury's spaghetti-strap flats in gold kid, or black, violet or crimson suede, £105 (but reduced to £70 at Fenwick or at the Azagury shops in Marylebone High Street, W1, Walton Street, SW3, and Knightsbridge, SW1).

CUTTING EDGE

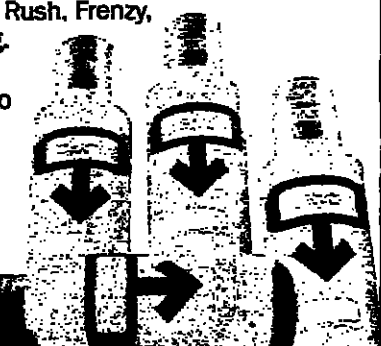
At Fenwick, wooden and clear-plastic mules by Jamin Puech, intricately decorated with "hennaed" patterns, are £39 (£59). Red and Dead at Miss Selfridge has clunky wood-soled platforms with velvet-embossed satin uppers in blue or gold for £35 (£45). But the almost-barefoot Contessa would probably rather make a trip to Hermes, where the last word in wooden-soled sandals, with "H" logo uppers in top-stitched navy or saddle brown leather, can be hers for £120.

Objects of desire

From Wonderbra model Eva Herzigova to superwaif Jodie Kidd, supermodels insist on dragging their beloved pooches around fashion shows snuggled into anything from a jean-jacket to a wicker picnic basket. Those hell-bent on securing a more chic mode of transport for their four-legged friends (not to be used for tiny offspring) should check out Burberry's check dogsack, £75 (0171-734 5929).



This sleek, orange metal spray can and rounded plastic cap will definitely stop thrill-seeking males in their tracks as they whizz down the toilet aisle. The good news is that it's a deodorant, but it has not escaped the boyishly predictable bold graphics and names such as Rush, Frenzy, Euphoria and Zero-g. At £2.95 each, they look funky enough to leave out of the bathroom cabinet and even have matching condoms from Durex at 99p. Available at Boots



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EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

BE AN F1 TEAM MEMBER FOR A DAY

Today *The Times*, in association with Schweppes, the official soft drink partner in the West McLaren Mercedes Team, offers readers the unique chance to experience how a leading Formula One team operates.

One lucky reader and a friend will be given the opportunity to spend a VIP day with the West McLaren Mercedes team at an exclusive pre-European Grand Prix test day which could take place in either Monza or Barcelona. As members of the team, you will get a superb insight into what goes on at an official test day, how the car is tested on a closed circuit and how the drivers prepare themselves for the next round in the FIA Formula One World Championship. You will meet the team and find the answers to all the questions you have ever wanted to ask about F1.

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The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal TNL competition rules apply. Entrants must be over 18 and have a valid UK passport. The proceeds of the phoneline will be donated to two charities, Tommy's Campaign and KOBRA.

COMPETITION ENTRY LINE: 0660 11 11 02
Outside UK 1550 122 202. Lines are open until midnight on Sunday July 12, 1998.
0660 calls cost 50p per minute (1550 calls cost 58p per minute).

CHANGING TIMES



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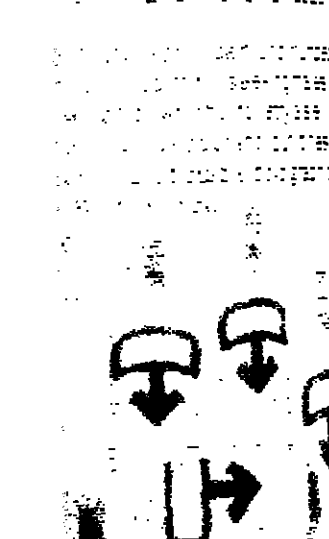
Produced by... £20, from Paul Smith



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Produced by... £20, from Paul Smith



Produced by... £45 by Bette

TEAM OR A DAY



Produced by... £20, from Paul Smith



MAN ON TOP
JOE JOSEPH

Is sex a substitute for food?

It's holiday season again, the time of year when we look forward to spending a couple of weeks on a foreign beach, sizzling under a hot sun, and wearing nothing more than loose-fitting boxer shorts while our airline tries to locate our mis-routed luggage — the airline naturally being anxious to return it swiftly, so as not to completely ruin its chances of losing it all over again on the flight home.

our famous annual selection of handy travel tips.

DESTINATION TIPS: Many people now consider Albania to be an interesting holiday destination. If you go, just remember to keep track of the time difference. When it's noon in London, it's only 7am in New York, 9pm in Tokyo, and still 1952 in Tirana (civic motto: "The place to come for your holidays, but only if absolutely everywhere else is fully booked — including that campsite in Omsk). Albania is the geographical equivalent of tooth decay.

● Don't visit Sweden unless you are mad for herrings. Swedes are herring-crazy. How crazy? Put it this way: if you believe in reincarnation, then avoid being reborn as a Swedish herring. Your life will be short. And pickled. This herring-heavy diet can get monotonous after even a few days. Let alone after a few decades. It may explain a lot about Swedish behaviour. For many people, food is a sex-substitute. Who knows, for the famously liberated Swedes, sex may well be a food-substitute.

● Some visitors wonder why, if God really does love Los Angeles, he masks it in smog. You'll see, when the smog clears, that God has only been trying to do the place a favour. The smog also adds a frisson to LA life by increasing the randomness of the traditional local greeting of drive-by shootings. Cash is rarely used. The local currency is either American Express or fame, which is even more prized: in Los Angeles, people aren't described as "friendly" or "a teacher" or "a mother of two", but as "bankable".

● Don't be embarrassed if you can't understand Greek. Even many Greeks can't understand Greek. But there are other ways to communicate. A Greek always responds warmly if you proffer a white handkerchief and offer to hold one end of it each while you dance with him, even in a crowded bus in Athens.

● Finally, pack your own reading, otherwise you will be forced to make last-minute purchases at the airport bookstall. This only sells heavily embossed sexual thrillers in which big-breasted women called Natasha fall in love with men called Jamie who speak pukka English but who, in a moment of uncharacteristic stress, hiss "Gott in Himmel" under their breath, thereby exposing themselves as Hans Schweinwessel — yes that Hans Schweinwessel, the notorious Nazi refugee from justice since 1945. Will Natasha betray him? Will she steal one last opportunity to feel him press his manly body against her firm, heaving bosom? By the time you've finished this book you'll be begging stray dogs to weep all over it.

TRAVEL TIPS: Bear in mind that children under the age of two travel free on planes. For relaxing and cost-efficient flight, book yourself in Economy and your children in Club. It costs no more and leaves you free to watch the movie.

● If you're planning to take a hiking holiday through the Black Forest, don't bother telling the locals the joke that ends with the punchline, "No, said Helmut, that's MY pumpnickel and brarwurst!" You'll find most Germans just don't get it.

The most hated man in opera

Tibor Rudas lured the Three Tenors out of La Scala and into the casino. Interview by Noreen Taylor

Tibor Rudas, the man behind the Three Tenors, says: "I am the most hated man in the world of opera, but I am loved by the masses." Modesty is not his strong suit. But he is no idle boaster, and is now fine-tuning arrangements for his most ambitious coup: Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and José Carreras performing in the World Cup finale concert at the Eiffel Tower tonight.

in London, produced the first Pavarotti in the Park concert. "The Prince and Princess of Wales sat in the rain in Hyde Park and got soaked. They didn't care," he recalls. A year later a similar event in Buenos Aires drew 300,000 people in 1993 some 500,000 gathered in New York's Central Park. Cities pay for the free concerts; the revenue comes from records and videos. "Satisfaction and money! I would not be truthful if I said those didn't matter," Rudas says. "But those are only the icing on the cake. You have to know how to be happy. Success and money won't bring it. I started off badly, but I never feared poverty because I knew I would escape. When I was 11 and had no shoes to wear I had the capacity to be happy." He often compares his past with his opulent present. "I asked my wife recently 'How many bathrooms do we have?' She counted our houses round the world and said 21. That made me happy. As a child I had to wander at night down a long corridor because my family didn't have even one." Born in Budapest in 1926, to a family forced to live in poverty because of bankruptcy, Rudas was the family freak. "I had this musical ability, which surprised everyone since I come from business people who knew nothing about classical music. From the age of eight I earned money as a soprano for the State Opera, as well as singing at dinners or small concerts. I sang to eat, for myself and my family. By the time I was 13, my voice had gone. Overworked."



Tending tenors: "Pavarotti is sick 24 hours before a concert," says Rudas. "Carreras becomes anxious about his surroundings. Domingo is a workaholic"

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After studying for a business degree, he joined a variety troupe touring Europe, eventually moving to Australia. There he began producing French-style revues and met his wife, Lee. In the 1970s he went to Atlantic City, America's second gambling capital, where he ran the Resorts International Theatre, producing shows to rival those of Las Vegas, starring Frank Sinatra, Diana Ross, Bill Cosby and Jerry Lewis. "I am like a father to my artists. They can demand anything of me and I ensure they have it. Many of them work their way up from nothing, and that feeling of insecurity never quite disappears. Carreras is the most insecure. I've never seen a more frightened man than Jerry Lewis before he went on stage. Filled with terror, I felt for him." He adds that Sinatra worked for him for three years and was never unreasonable. "His only concerns were technical ones. As long as the musicians and the sound were up to his standard, he was very easy to get along with." Rudas finally returned to his first passion, classical music. Convinced that a casino audience would respond to it with as much enthusiasm as any opera house patron, his main problem was to persuade performers that he was right. Audience size was one factor. "I convinced performers that their talent belonged to a much wider audience. In my variety days I'd seen classical orchestras perform in casinos in many European cities. People came in droves. When I introduced the New York Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta to the casino showroom it was the first time such a thing had been dreamt of in America."

THE SUNDAY TIMES FALL FROM GRACE From the sublime to the ridiculous... Bryan Appleyard on how the blonde has bombed. THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

When it's hip to mourn

Bill Frost looks at the high fashion of grief

CELEBRITY, like death, recognises no frontiers. Lamented in life, the great and the good must today be mourned around the planet — one service no longer satisfies our collective need.

So it was that the congregation gathered at St James's, Piccadilly, yesterday to praise and remember the life and work of Tammy Wynette, the country and western singer whose lyrics made us happy to be sad. She had, of course, already been mourned in Nashville but, such is her iconic status, British fans required their own memorial service with an address by Sir Cliff Richard. There is nothing new about international grief at the loss of a star performer. Fans arranged suitable send-offs for Byron and Shelley in Italy and Greece, despite their ambivalence towards organised religion.

In the late 20th century though, the celebrity memorial service is the hip date in the social calendar. To be among the fashionably mournful in London and, say, New York, is to be touched by the greatness of the recently departed — and have an opportunity to be snapped twice by the paparazzi. Competition was stiff for pew places at services across the world for the late Sir Isaiah Berlin — whose life was remembered at three services in his honour.

Appropriately, Gianni Versace's two memorial services — one at the Duomo in Milan, the other in Florida where the designer was murdered by a gay stalker — became catwalks for people who look pretty in black. Although the occasions were solemn, there was, inevitably, a strong element of theatre — a sumptuous display of sadness decked out in finery. "We are not here to put on a show, but to mourn the loss of a friend, a brother in the eyes of God," Monsignor Angelo Majò reminded the congregation.

But, with the crowds surging at the doors, and the pews stuffed with the most unlikely collection of church-goers, it was only a brief moment of reflection before the cameras started rolling and the flashes popping. Sometimes old scores can be settled at such gatherings, and sometimes old feuds rekindled, despite the finality of death and the need for mutual forgiveness.

THE deaths of their respective spouses, and the passing of more than a quarter of a century, did little to heal the rift between Sir Paul McCartney and Yoko Ono. Her name was absent from the list of mourners at services for Linda McCartney in both London and New York.

The rift between the pair began with the break-up of The Beatles in 1970, when the McCartneys were said to have resented Yoko Ono's influence over her husband. Feuding bottled up last Christmas, when she mocked Sir Paul's claims to have been the group's creative leader. "She was not invited. She was saddened by it," said her spokesman last month, adding that Yoko and her son, Sean Lennon, had sent flowers. "The two women were not close, but she felt warmth for Linda from afar."



Blood, iron and champagne

Daniel Johnson uncorks the explosive legacy of Bismarck

I felt a frisson when the fax from Friedrichsruh arrived: an invitation to commemorate the centenary of the death of Bismarck next week at his old country seat near Hamburg. Henry Kissinger — very appropriately — will speak on the lessons of Bismarck's foreign policy. Were I not editing this page, I should certainly be there.

Why the frisson? It has to do with the mortality of the mighty. We are still within a handshaking of the greatest man in the era of Great Men.

I felt the frisson again when I saw "the world's first paparazzi photograph", showing Bismarck on his deathbed and reproduced this week in *Der Spiegel*. Taken illegally by two enterprising snappers who broke into the princely bedroom at night, the picture shows, not the martial image of the "Iron Chancellor" in cuirassier's uniform that had been carefully fostered by Bismarck's spin-doctors Moritz Busch and Lothar Bucher, but an all-too-human octogenarian's corpse, a sunken, discoloured death mask ravaged by sickness, his only companion a chamber pot. No wonder the family had the photograph confiscated before it could be published, though not before it had been auctioned for a fabulous sum. The photographers were jailed for burglary; their scoop never saw the light of day.

The dying Chancellor was the first victim of the paparazzi

"One is no longer safe anywhere," the old man had grumbled before his death. "One doesn't know whether one will be photographed or shot." Bismarck spoke with feeling in 1866, on the eve of the war with Austria, a student had tried to assassinate him as he strolled down Unter den Linden. Three shots were fired before the burly Prussian statesman had disarmed the youth. It was the golden age of the assassin. Bismarck, aged royal master, Wilhelm I, was shot by a certain Dr Nobiling, but recovered from his severe injuries. (Bismarck promptly called and won an election.) Old-fashioned enough to believe in the benefits of being bled, the old Kaiser used to tell his physicians: "The only doctor who knew how to treat me was that Dr Nobiling."

What remains of Bismarck's legacy? His Prussian-dominated German Empire outlived him by only 20 years, exactly as he predicted. West Germany since 1945 has been dominated by the two forces he tried to crush: social democracy and political Catholicism. The comparisons that are often drawn between Bismarck and Helmut Kohl are spurious; about the only thing they have in common is a gargantuan appetite. Even there the differences are more interesting: Kohl drinks the Rhenish wines of his native Palatinat, whereas Bismarck swilled champagne (always Moët et Chandon) like a new Labour lobbyist.

Bismarck, whose wit was as dry as his drink, is rightly credited with enriching our political vocabulary: *realpolitik*, *honest broker*, the art of the possible. But not all these

coinages bear examination. The term *Realpolitik* was not Bismarck's; it was invented by a journalist, August Ludwig von Rochau, years before Bismarck came to power; he contrasted the reactionary 1850s Prussian regime with the idealism of the 1848 revolutionaries. When Bismarck became Prime Minister in 1862, Rochau dismissed him as an adventurer. So *realpolitik* is Bismarckian only by adoption.

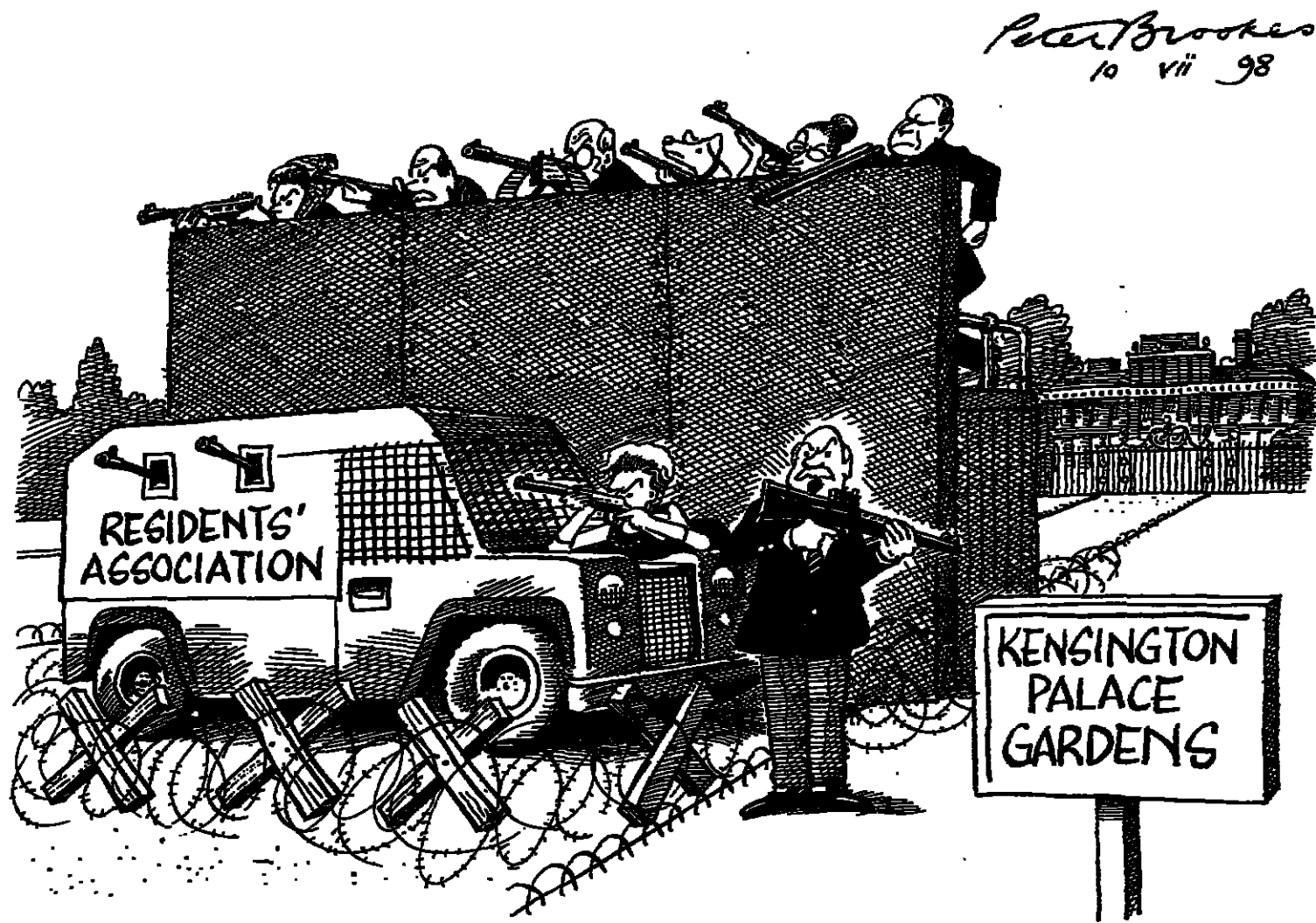
Bismarck did call himself an "honest broker", *ehrlicher Makler*. At the Congress of Berlin in 1878, Bismarck claimed to see his role as impartial; in reality, he was neither honest nor a broker. (As his banker Bleichröder remarked at the time: "There are no honest brokers.") It was he who pioneered secret treaties, and he who browbeat, seduced or betrayed each rival in turn. His favourite was Disraeli ("the old Jew"), whose cynicism matched his own.

The most celebrated catchphrase of all is "blood and iron". Dictionaries of quotations mostly date this wrongly, and it should anyway be "iron and blood". Bismarck used it in 1862, just after coming to power and before the three led to German unification. "Not by speeches and majority votes are the great questions of the day decided — and then his announcement comes, itself, the headline (*Blair warns 'We must be pure'*) and... oh it's all so depressing, ask any journalist how it's done, how it spins off and beyond recall. Ask John Major.

By this weekend, and awaiting this Sunday's newspapers, Mr Blair and his circle will be reliving, but on a (so far) infinitely less intense level, the emotional experiences of his predecessor in Downing Street. Sinatra would have called it *The Bunkered Feeling* and sung about it with bluesy despair. To bunker down is almost always the instinct in politics when the world seems unkind, and it is almost always wrong. In Mr Blair's case it is wrong because it will throw him into the company and counsel of the very crowd who have caused him this trouble.

I call them the image-smiths. These are the people who set it as their job (in a favourite term of Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press spokesman) to "co-ordinate" the "strategic message". A distinct group at the top of new Labour are men (all men) whose concern is less with what the thing is than how the thing will look. Mr Campbell is one of them; Peter Mandelson, who could have been a serious administrator, has chosen to be another. Around their feet plays a whole nursery of junior image-smiths, people who are in and out of Millbank Tower, in and out of public relations, advertising, broadcasting, journalism and the lobbying business.

We sense, without being sure how, that in the bar these are not the people you would talk to if you had a real, hard idea for the better administration of a nation. If you wanted to talk about Anglian Water Services' ground-breaking desalination plant or how (in Jonathan Swift's words) to make two ears of corn grow where one grew before, if you wanted to



"NO WAY WILL THAT LOT WALK DOWN HERE..."

Why the press is turning

Blair's 'damage limitation' advisers are doing him irreparable harm

The *Observer's* revelations are small beer. That is terrible news for Tony Blair. If it is what newspapers want to make of a misdemeanour, what will they make of a crime?

About the substance of the allegations I have few words to add to the thousands already written on the depressing little story. They are little-tale. Even if it is all true, and some does ring true, this is mere bagatelle.

Mr Blair dare not say "So what?" (press headline: *Advisers peddle favours: Blair says 'So What?'*). So he has to say he takes it very seriously — and then his announcement comes, itself, the headline (*Blair warns 'We must be pure'*) and... oh it's all so depressing, ask any journalist how it's done, how it spins off and beyond recall. Ask John Major.

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discuss aircraft carriers, if you were burning to exchange thoughts on road pricing, or the practical benefits of imposing a single currency — then these are not your men.

Their eyes would glaze over. Of course they deal in hair policy all the time — but as a white-goods salesman deals in appliances, refrigerators are what he sells but he does not care how a refrigerator works. With such men the questions of the hour are less "What shall we do?" than "What shall we say?" and "How shall we say it?" "Is this the story we want to sell?" "How packaged?" "When?" "To whom?" "Whom shall we promote and whom shall we shaft?" "On or off the record?" "What's the message, who's the messenger, what's the angle and where are the cameras?" This is the world of Westminster which I live and breathe, this is my currency too, and I despise it. All of us who live by it despise it.

This world and these men will be the downfall of Mr Blair. They are not the firefighters, they are the fire, and they will burn him. Let me offer an example, the most parable, of the disruptiveness of the so-called damage-limitation experts.

The Saturday before last an article by Nick Wood and Carol Midgley appeared on the inside pages of this newspaper, reporting broadcasters' irritation that new Labour are shunning the "hard" interview in preference for the "soft" sofa-based chat-format. This is obviously true. Almost the first law of common-sense public relations is that when a story is true and goes with the grain it is self-defeating to call it a lie. There were two ways the Blair court might have sensibly reacted to the article. The first (which I recommend) was simply to ignore it. The readership of the article would have been modest, the worst it could do being to add a mite of currency to an already widespread perception.

So, Alastair Campbell faces awkward story. He could (1) ignore story; or (2) greet story with a sunny "So what?" Instead, he storms into print just when we had forgotten the original article, with an angry letter to *The Times*. Unable to resist his tendency to lash out, he denigrates *Newsnight* as a failing, and *The World At One* as a failed programme. They are not failing programmes; nobody thinks so — were they, it would have been even more important not to say so as egos would have been raw.

Result? *Newsnight* gets a helpful boost. The brilliant Jeremy Paxman is now a sworn enemy ("if there is a 'message' I want to be off it") and the utterly fair Nick Clarke has reason to feel hurt. Paxman writes an angry article for the *London Evening Standard*, all the newspapers take it up the very next morning, we turn on *The World At One* (which we have just read Mr Campbell describing as a programme "very few take seriously") to hear Mr Blair mouthing sentimental soundbites ("a mountain of courage, a molehill of luck") about the World Cup. (The Prime Minister should never speak about football; he should be spotted at matches but, insisting he's there privately, never comment.) *Newsnight's* Michael

Crick interviews me on the emerging debate about what we call "phony Tony".

So now, thanks to Mr Campbell, *Sofagate* is the buzz-topic. That night, Mr Major chooses this subject for a speech — "the dumbing-down of politics". It reverberates through the weekend. A few days later Mr Mandelson chooses *The World At One* for his appearance with Derek Draper. Yesterday Gordon Brown appeared on *The World At One*.

And two snowballs collide. Draper, Blair-aides, "praetorian guard", image-smiths, sofas, champagne, cronies, sleaze... it all rolls up and onward in a big, fuzzy, generalised unease about something shallow, something hollow, something narcissistic, unrooted and opportunistic about the whole Blair thing: a sense of outward varnish and interior panic.

Damage limitation? This is the damage! It's the varnish which is rotting the woodwork. Mr Blair could have won as well, and governed better, without every man-jack of these image-smiths. But like all in their ignoble profession, your communications professional does succeed spectacularly in one great act of salesmanship, does know how to sell one big lie. He sells his own instrumentality. He plays his lyre just before dawn then tells his paymaster that his song can cause the sun to rise.

It is the mood-music around this Prime Minister, the sound of these lyres, that the news media (not yet the public) are coming to loathe. We hate it as every creature hates that upon which it half depends. We are increasingly disposed, I believe, to look for a means of attack. *The Observer* found one last weekend.

The Bernie Ecclestone affair was a big story, but the press let go. Sandline was a smaller story, but the press did not let go. Cronygate is a very small story, but the press are piling in without mercy. Mr Blair may reflect on the change, and on the disproportion. In embrace he may intensify his embrace with those close to him upon whom he has relied as image-smiths. But it is those men who enraged his pursuers in the first place.

My (Thursday) morning *Times* has just arrived. Alastair Campbell has written to the Editor again. I don't believe it.

Matthew Parris

Philip Howard



He's no chum of mine — he's my crony

Big cronies have little cronies upon their backs to put the bite on 'em. Little cronies have lesser cronies. And so ad infinitum. The exposure of flagrant cronyism at new Labour's top table (seating capacity: max 17) comes as no surprise. For the old-boy network is a part of human nature as old as civilisation. It stretches back from the old school tie and the brother and sisterhood of the pop concert to the regimental reunion and from Freemasonry to those intricate feudal relationships with complex rights, duties and perks. Especially the perks. The British are particularly strong at cronyism. The principal pleasure of clubs is the exclusion and blackballing of those who are "not one of us".

Even the term "crony" is old. Like much slang, it grew out of schoolboy playing-fields. "Crony" is the Cambridge word; "chum" is its Oxford equivalent. Samuel Pepys, who graduated from Magdalene, Cambridge, in 1654, introduced the slang to the wider world: "Jack Coles, my old schoolfellow, who was a great chum of mine." Pepys's spelling gives the game away. "Crony" comes from the Greek word for age-old and longstanding. So it is a cognate sibling of such other words as *chronicle*, *chronic*, *synchronisation* and *chronometer*. When the undergraduate Pepys was sporting on the Backs, the college wits coined "crony" to show off their Greek scholarship.

At the same time, the clever young men at Oxford coined the word "chum". The best guess is that it is a familiar abbreviation of "chamber-mate", "chamber-fellow" or some such phrase. But nobody knows. It is an odd word. Thereafter, the words diverged. Crony developed a bad name along with its verb and abstract noun "cronyism". Disraeli wrote in 1826: "I wonder whom Grey will crony with this half." *Cronyism* came to mean more than the simple desire to make friends. It has connotations of sleaze, nepotism, and the appointment of friends and relations to government or other posts without regard to their qualifications. But chum never developed "chum(m)ism". And it acquired connotations of friendship through thick and thin in the 1914-18 war, and from the Australian usage of calling an immigrant a "new chum".

Only hermits, psychopaths and saints have no cronies. The crony is one of the ten stock themes of literature. Take Dr Watson away from Sherlock Holmes and all those mysteries and casebooks collapse. Achilles without his crony Patroclus. Aeneas without *fidus* "crony" Achaes and his other cronies with their mission statement to found Rome would destroy the plots of the *Iliad* and the *Aeneid*. We love Dr Johnson for his oddities, his wit, his irascibility and his frailties. But his cronyism is just as endearing. He loved dining, drinking and chattering into the early hours with such unsuitable and less distinguished cronies as Boswell.

The gang of cronies or chums or outlaws against the world is a stock topos or theme in English fact and fiction. They rule the roost and run the show from Robin Hood to *Just William*. And Roger Liddle, from the SDP claret-drinking tendency, is that other heroic crony, the Fat Boy. From Friar Tuck to Falstaff he is a jolly rogue. "His tight trousers against which boots and canes are constantly thudding, astuteness in search of food, his Postal Order which never turns up, have made him famous wherever the Union Jack waves." Billy Bunter of the Remove at Blackfriars, is for ever dunned by his cronies when the going gets tough, and cries "Yow-ow-whoopoo" as the cane or the "exclusive" expose falls.

Everybody except Robinson Crusoe has his or her cronies. And even Crusoe got Mandy Friday. Even William Hague has chums. "Cash for access" has a neat symmetry in sleaze with "cash for questions". But the case is altered. For MPs to take backhanders for doing their job really is sleazy. Lobbying is a naturally sleazy occupation. But it is a function of lobbyists to arrange access to men of power. The attraction of this story is another stock topic of pompous prat slipping on banana-skin. This sport to have the engineer hoist with his own petard. Or statesmen should beware of boasting about being whiter than white or "back to basics". Or they will find themselves in a pickle of cash for boasting, alias brass for brass.

JASPER GERARD

Vatican plea

THE comely Cristina Odone has been summoned by the Pope to Rome. The former editor of the *Catholic Herald* has been asked by the pontiff to help him to prepare for the millennium. He has invited her to talk to him about "writing as a vehicle of Christian values". She is to present a ten-page paper at a special "pre-synodal symposium" in January, intended to brace the Vatican for 2000. "The other contributors are all professors and doctors, and I am the only one from England," she says. "I don't know why I have been chosen." Miss Odone (pictured), a sometime armistice for Radio Four's John Humphrys, made the *Herald* fashionable, inducing middle-aged swells to say very silly things about their infatuation for her.

Alas, her high-profile, Madonna-tempestress image failed to impress Cardinal Basil Hume. He dubbed her "the odd one", perhaps out of weariness at being reminded of her best-remembered quote: "I'd love to have sex 9,000 times a day with 6,000 people." She has now taken her gymnastics to the *New Statesman*, where as deputy editor she is to inject a bit of wit, pace and "edge" into the tired magazine.

So who recommended her to *Il Papa* (right)? "I doubt it was the cardinal and it certainly wasn't my former colleagues at the *Herald*."

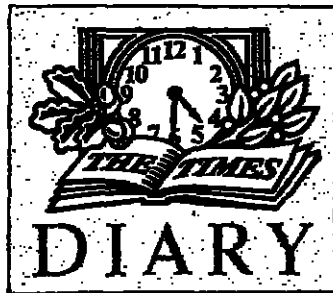
● RICHARD ADDIS on lunch with Tony Blair before his fall (Addis's note: Blair's: "We had



lunch at Boodle's, the crustiest of London clubs. He fitted in like a dream. He would, I think, be welcomed as a member should he want to join."

Bean feast

"WHERE is the Minister without Portfolio skulking?" demanded the sinus-powered William Hague as he berated Tony Blair over Peter Mandelson's awkward links with lobbyists on Wednesday. Mandelson was, I can disclose,



far from the Commons bearpit and the feather-bedded cronies with whom he has been associated. Instead, he was escorting his good friend Princess Margaret to a majestic lunch party in Mayfair thrown by Druce Heinz, widow of H.J. "Jack" Heinz II, the baked bean magnate. Sitting downtabled Peter at Druce's residence were Lords Rothschild and Gowrie. William Waldegrave was on hand to compare the merits of "arms-to-Iraq" with "cash-for access". Mandelson was surely with Tony in spirit as he suffered taunts about Peter's less salubrious friends.

● A FRESH talent has made a bid to enter the poetry pantheon. Fai-ma Bhutto (pictured), the 15-year-old niece of Benazir Bhutto, the former PM of Pakistan, has put into verse her turbulent family history — the assassination of her

father, a custody battle, a gloomy story. Critics will, I'm sure, praise her ability to disguise these traumas in a brilliant pastiche of an angst-ridden adolescent. "You are a solitary star in a dark empty sky! You light up the evening and never do you die." reads one line couched in *Whispers of the Desert*, to be published by Oxford University Press. Move over E.J. Thribb.

Greens fee

AN ENVELOPE in the pocket rather than a hole in one is normally the thing of MPs. Not so Peter Snape, who struck the ultimate golfing shot during this year's con-



test of the parliamentary golf society. Instead of buying a drink for everyone in the clubhouse, as tradition dictates, he rushed off to watch the footer, leaving Chris Lister, a Commons flunky, to buy on his behalf. "It's the first time I've had a hole in one," he says "and I hope it's the last time." His bill? £140.

● A CABINET minister has had to sit a written test. Ron Davies, the abrasive Secretary of State for Wales, has been tested for his "ability to communicate" during a grilling by a Labour selection panel for the Welsh Assembly. Trickily for Davies, who was accused of "bullying tactics" by MPs, "team-work" is a key criterion.

Hard Labour

INTRODUCING Rachel Willis (pictured), model, daughter of a Liberal Democrat MP and fervent Labour supporter. The scion of that well-known parliamentarian Phil Willis, she has dated the lead singer of D-Ream, Peter Cunnah, whose anthem *Things Can Only Get Better* apparently helped Labour to victory. Since then, she has been out with Bruce Willis's stuntman, whom she met while filming *Fifth Element*. "I must stress that I am an old Labour supporter," she says, "definitely not



new Labour." Her father is unperturbed. "I am always delighted when my daughter is happy and relieved when it is over."

● STING'S brother, Phil Sumner, has returned to his milk round after being forced to close his pub. Magistrates said Sumner had strayed beyond the terms of his licence so he is having to deliver pints rather than pull them. Surely his brother can offer him B&B?

صكرا من الاصل



LORDS IN PARLIAMENT

A blueprint for a reformed second chamber

The matter is not of enormous importance and the numbers are admittedly modest. The Government's plans for university tuition fees include, however, an unfortunate anomaly. In Scotland, honours degrees are a four-year enterprise. David Blunkett has conceded that students there should contribute towards the cost of only three of those four years. He has also determined that students located in any other part of the United Kingdom who attend a Scottish institution must pay fees throughout their education. A young person from Exeter will be charged more to attend St Andrews than a contemporary in Edinburgh. As residents of other European Union states are treated as if they were citizens of Scotland, students from England, Northern Ireland and Wales will be financially disadvantaged compared with those of Finland, Greece and Ireland.

On Tuesday evening the House of Lords voted, for the third time, to ask the House of Commons to reconsider this incredible proposal. The Lords were utterly right to target the Scottish anomaly. The Government would be wise to execute a belated retreat. But in its enfeebled state the House of Lords has little more than the capacity to embarrass. The executive in this country is not renowned for its advanced sense of humility. The Government — confident of its massive majority in the House of Commons — may steamroller the second chamber.

For this reason a new and stronger Upper House is essential. Any reform of the House of Lords should consider the character of Parliament as a whole. The matter of who might serve in the House of Lords should follow a decision on the purpose and powers of that second chamber. It should seek not to duplicate but to offset the deficiencies of the House of Commons. It is the principal role of the lower House to create, staff, maintain and — in unusual cases — throw out a Government. These tasks are assisted by the current electoral system. The House of Commons is the proper forum for constituency representation and the conduct of national debate. It retains an often underestimated range of instruments (questions to ministers, Opposition motions and Select Committees) for holding an administration to account. There is no need for an Upper House to concentrate on these functions.

The House of Commons is also consistently inadequate at legislative scrutiny. The dispute over the funding of Scottish universities is one small example of a much wider problem. The overwhelming purpose of a reformed House of Lords should be the inspection and revision of legislation, both British and European in origin. The present powers of the Upper House are broadly adequate for this role, although there is a compelling case for awarding an additional ability to delay measures deemed (by the Speaker of the House of Commons) to be explicitly constitutional in nature. The problem today is not nominal power but political credibility.

The challenge for reformers is to create a new chamber that can raise the quality of legislation while still respecting the primacy of the House of Commons. A completely appointed chamber might enjoy policy expertise but would hold scant democratic legitimacy. An entirely elected assembly would have legitimacy but not necessarily a special talent for scrutiny and may be tempted to usurp the House of Commons. A mixed legislature — half elected and half nominated — would strike the better balance between the ballot box and expert experience. A relatively small and salaried Upper House, perhaps 300 members strong, would be best. The independence of that second chamber could be further enhanced by a

shift in electoral system for its democratic section and a new method of nomination for the appointed segment.

An electoral system suited to empowering voters and a Government is not necessarily the most appropriate one for the function of revision. The use of the single transferable vote for the Upper House would have a number of advantages. First, it would make it unlikely that one party could dominate the elected proportion of the second chamber. Secondly, it would avoid both the replication of parliamentary constituencies and the need for party lists, an alien device hardly destined to inspire free thinking. Finally, it would make it possible for nonpartisan individuals to be elected with a relatively small number of first preferences. All this would entrench political independence.

The appointed element should emerge from a nominating commission (chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons) not from Prime Ministerial patronage alone. A small number of slots could be reserved *ex officio* for former Prime Ministers, Speakers, senior retired law officers and clergymen. As Britain moves towards a more codified constitution it would make sense to locate the current law lords in a separate judicial institution. The remaining nominees should be drawn initially from the present pool of Life Peers. The commission would be obliged to choose on the basis of their prospective contribution to public life rather than prior or current party links alone. It should aim to secure for the new House of Lords the broad range of professional experience and expertise that is the best aspect of the current chamber.

Two further innovations would complete the independence of the second chamber. Members of the Upper House — elected or nominated — should not be eligible to act as ministers. There is no reason why ministers in the Commons could not answer directly to the revising chamber. This may encourage an overdue reduction in the numbers holding red boxes. They should also serve not more than two consecutive six-year terms at Westminster. These provisions would lessen the force of the executive's carrot of entry to high office or the stick of sudden deselection.

The Upper House should retain its historic name and features. Hereditary peers, currently disenfranchised at general elections, should keep their titles and be free to vote or stand for either chamber. A few of these figures would be proper candidates for nomination to the new House of Lords. There is also merit in retaining the life peerage as an honour for outstanding contribution to national life even though it no longer brought with it an automatic seat in Parliament. The serving members of the Upper House would be known as Lords in Parliament (LPs).

A plan on these lines could be adopted either by the Government or the modernisers within the Conservative Party. The Prime Minister needs to outline his thinking before proceeding with the elimination of hereditary peers. William Hague has a real opportunity to outflank the Government by swiftly announcing his support for a reformed second chamber. The recent pamphlet by Andrew Tyrie MP, calling for an elected element in the Upper House, made a powerful Tory case for change. It remains to be seen whether politicians of any party will embrace a reform that would create an effective revising chamber. The public might agree with James Madison, the main author of the American Constitution, that "those who cannot stand scrutiny should not be offered political authority".

AN INAPPROPRIATE FOLLY

Diana needs no horticultural shrine

Diana, Princess of Wales, won the public's affection through her support of the homeless, victims of landmines, sufferers from Aids, and terminally ill children. The proposal, announced yesterday, to spend £10 million of public money to create a 27-acre memorial garden behind her former London home, Kensington Palace, is the wrong way to commemorate the Princess. It will not help, let alone recognise, the causes to which she devoted so much of her time.

The committee that proposes to spend millions on landscape gardening is chaired by Gordon Brown. It seems that he either cannot withstand the emotional blackmail of the "Cult of Diana" lobby, or does not see the folly of creating a Diana theme park in Central London. Perhaps he wants to create a People's Park to rival the Mandelston Dome: enter Mr Capability Brown. He surely knows that £10 million will only be the downpayment: the People's Park would need the People's Car Park, the People's Public Conveniences and People's Park Attendants to cope with the millions of pilgrims to this shrine.

million on causes which the Princess certainly cared about. The money could help train guide dogs, build a school, orphanage or hospital — each one a more fitting tribute than a boating lake or secret garden.

While those whom the Princess cared about stand to gain little, those who make money from her memory will be rubbing their hands with glee: what better start for bus tours of "Diana's London" than at her memorial garden in Kensington, the home from which she would go shopping, visit the gym or frequent some of London's most fashionable restaurants? Although Kensington was the Princess's stamping ground, her popularity arose not because she shopped at nearby Harvey Nichols. She managed to combine the grace and style of royalty with a charming common touch. She was someone who had everything, and cared for those who had nothing. She was an untypical Royal: why then commemorate her in a Royal Park in Kensington?

The residents of Kensington are concerned, understandably, that their neighbourhood will be swamped as Diana worshippers flock to this garden, London's Graceland. They should not be browbeaten into acquiescence. It is not just their neighbourhood's peace that is at stake: so is £10 million that could go to other public ends. The Government has encouraged no public debate on the wisdom of such spending on such a memorial. Previous memorials — such as the Albert Memorial — were paid for by public subscription. If public money is to be spent on a memorial, it should help those people whom the Princess cared about — and not turn a Royal Park into a theme park.

Uncertainty over common currency

From Mr David Tipping

Sir, My wife and I recently acquired a house built in 1924, with a bay extension which had been added at a later, unknown date. Builders are now renovating the bay, and we have been unable to date the original work from a scrap of newspaper found in the rubble. The scrap is just sufficient to identify it as the leader page from *The Times* of March 27, 1950.

You may be interested to read the first paragraph of the main leader. It is headed "Payments union". The cautious attitude of the United Kingdom to the proposed European payments union, as is sometimes the way with technical financial issues, has become a centre of controversy and criticism because it appears to be related to a wider question of principle. More than once within the context of the Marshall plan, this country has been accused by the United States and Continental Europe of holding aloof from schemes designed to promote European economic partnership: more than once American critics have conjured up the picture only to be dispelled later as an unworthy caricature, of the United Kingdom "dragging her feet" behind a company of otherwise enthusiastic European pilgrims after European "integration".

The leader continues at some length, in the manner of the time, citing the importance of our contribution to the freeing of European trade, but pleading the special character of sterling as a reason for our securing special terms in the EPU.

And so one learns, from this *Times* capsule, that 48 years is a short time in politics.

I am, Sir, as was the custom, your obedient servant,
DAVID TIPPING,
Quarry House, The Avenue,
Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3AJ.
July 7.

From Mr Frank Tomlin

Sir, Mr Robert Holton (letter, July 6) assumes a "common good" arising from the "far-flung regions" of the United Kingdom sharing in a common currency with the South East of England, where he lives. I wonder if people living in Scotland, Wales and the North of England feel the same way?

They might speculate that they would have fared better if they had their own currencies, floating against the South East of England pound and set their own interest rates. Being stuck with interest rates and exchange rates set for the benefit of the South East they suffered the loss of their basic industries and massive unemployment. Large capital transfers were needed, mainly funded from tax revenues raised in the South East of England, to fund Development Areas and investment grants to companies willing to go there.

As a far-flung region of Europe, we cannot assume that EMU will provide such a common good.
Yours sincerely,
FRANK TOMLIN
(President), Billericay & District
Conservative Association,
2 Ruskin Drive,
Billericay, Essex CM12 0AN.
July 6.

From Mr Timothy L. Tatham

Sir, The British habit of relying on competitive devaluation over the years has done little to strengthen our manufacturing base, in fact quite the opposite.

Perhaps we should face up to the reality that it is in the service industries that the British excel. Wouldn't our financial services industry, for example, benefit strongly from a single currency?

Yours faithfully,
T. TATHAM,
11 St James Terrace,
Winchester, Hampshire SO2 4PP.
July 8.

From Mr Jim Bourlet

Sir, The latest MORI poll for *The Times* (letter, July 6) shows that younger people mostly support our EU membership, whilst those who are older are opposed. One recalls, from opinion polls taken at the time, that in the early Seventies the young mostly supported EEC entry, while those who were older opposed it.

Those who were young then are the older poll respondents today. Here, surely, is that voice of experience, which we should not ignore.

Yours faithfully,
JIM BOURLET,
Department of Business Studies,
London Guildhall University,
84 Moorgate, EC2M 6SQ.
July 8.

Open secrets

From Mr C. J. Reddall

Sir, Why not release sensitive documents such as the Strategic Defence Review on a specific Website at a specific time? This would not only reduce the number of insecure brown envelopes lying around (reports, July 9) but would also save on printing and distribution costs.

Yours sincerely,
C. J. REDDALL,
8 Bond Street,
Brighton, Sussex BN1 1RD.
July 9.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Parties' positions on Lords reform

From the Very Reverend Dr R. D. Bakera

Sir, The reform of the second chamber of Parliament (letters, July 2) must eradicate modern political patronage together with the hereditary peerage. Democratic elections within interest groups representing major elements in our national life need not duplicate the party politics of the House of Commons.

Democracy would be further enhanced by having no *ex officio* members in the Upper House or Senate. For instance, the presidents of the National Farmers' Union, the Royal College of Surgeons or the Law Society need not necessarily represent their particular professions; nor need the Archbishop of Canterbury and his fellow Anglican bishops represent any of the religious communities in this country.

Through an elective process, each area of national life could construct a means for electing by a general mandate persons to represent their particular interests. A limited period of six to eight years' tenure for each Senator, irrespective of any general election, would allow continuity and further distance from party politics a Senate which might consist, at the most, of as few as 200 members.

Yours faithfully,
RON BAKER,
12 Dumbarston Road, SW2 5LU.
July 8.

From Mr Robert MacLennan, MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, I am pleased to see that at least one section of the Conservative Party is adopting Liberal Democrat policies for reform of the House of Lords ("Hague urged to plan for elected peers", report, June 29).

The Liberal Democrats launched the report of our Constitutional Affairs Policy Review Commission on June 8, reaffirming our policy for a reformed House of Lords with some 300 members, around 250 of whom would be elected by proportional representation to represent the nations

and regions of the United Kingdom. The Tory Reform Group calls for a reformed House with some of its 350 members elected on a regional basis. The Conservative Policy Forum suggests a 300-member House, with 250 elected by proportional representation.

Given that the best way to proceed with constitutional reform is on the basis of cross-party consensus, I hope the Conservative Party will read the rest of our Policy Review Commission report and adopt our policies for proportional representation for Westminster and a written constitution, too.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MACLENNAN
(Liberal Democrat Constitutional Affairs Spokesman),
House of Commons,
July 1.

From Mr Kenneth Westmoreland

Sir, William Hutton suggests (letter, July 2) that Britain could dispense with a second chamber without fuss. He might like to look at New Zealand as an example of how detrimental unicameralism has been to parliamentary democracy.

In 1950 the National Government abolished the Legislative Council, the Upper House, with little consideration or debate as to what should replace it as a check on the House of Representatives. The result was a single chamber serving as little more than a rubber stamp for the ill-thought-out legislation of National and Labour governments alike.

The introduction of proportional representation has served only to create a situation in which half the MPs are appointees from party lists, a parody of a bicameral legislature. Unicameralism has created a culture of arrogance among politicians in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH WESTMORELAND,
4 Beech House Road,
Croydon, Surrey CR0 1JP.
k.westmoreland@library.croydon.gov.uk
July 2.

E-mail archives

From the Keeper of Public Records

Sir, Terri Paddock referred, in her article on e-mail ("E-mail's red-letter day", Weekend, June 27), to the effect its use will have on collections of historic manuscripts. The short lifespan of most e-mails is similarly of great significance to archivists.

While printing out messages is an interim method of dealing with the problem, the ultimate solution has to be an electronic one.

E-mail messages produced by the business of government are public records and the Public Record Office's EROS (Electronic Records in Office Systems) programme is acting to ensure that, along with other forms of

electronic document, they are captured, managed and preserved in electronic form and will be accessible to historians in the future through a digital archive.

This is being achieved by setting policies and standards, and developing best practice in the management of electronic records throughout government. The public will have rights of access to these records under the forthcoming Freedom of Information legislation.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH TYACKE,
Keeper of Public Records,
Public Record Office,
Ruskin Avenue,
Kew, Richmond TW9 4DU.
July 6.

Slice of life

From Mr Victor Gill

Sir, Allow me to reassure salami slicers, especially at Tesco (Mr R. G. Pringle's letter, July 6), that 16 and 17-year-olds are allowed to slice salami — having received suitable training.

Health and Safety regulations, however, do not permit them to clean the machines afterwards, until they have reached 18.

Yours faithfully,
V. GILL
(Retail store manager),
2 Adel Vale,
Adel, Leeds LS16 8LF.
July 8.

Volume control

From Mr Don Read

Sir, In reporting today Liam Gallagher's request to a motorist to reduce the volume of music emanating from his vehicle, your Diarist might have suggested a word to describe the syndrome — caraphony.

Yours faithfully,
DON READ,
116 Holme Road,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham NG2 5AD.
July 8.

Russian Church

From Mr Lawrence Uzzell

Sir, Mr Martin Packard asserts in his letter (July 1) that the ministry of the Russian Orthodox Church was "relatively unhampered in most areas... from the 1940s onwards"; in fact local parishes throughout Russia were forbidden to engage in missionary, educational or charitable activities. During the Khrushchev era about two thirds of the surviving Orthodox parishes were forcibly disbanded.

Mr Packard goes on to say that "a small number of priests pursued a political role and suffered persecution"; in fact anyone who attempted to challenge the narrow limits set for religious activity was subject to persecution.

It is also misleading to say that since the end of Communist rule the Moscow patriarchate has sought "reconciliation" with anti-Soviet priests. In fact its leaders still shun full reconciliation even with such priests

Penalties that hold the fate of nations

From Mr John A. S. Flynn

Sir, After last night's World Cup match between Brazil and Holland, Glenn Hoddle was again whingeing about the injustice of it all and that penalties are a lottery. I disagree.

Being able to score a penalty against one of the world's finest goalkeepers is the supreme mark of excellence in a football professional. Kicking the ball at high speed into the corners of the net, from twelve yards, is an attribute of only the best players. Ronaldo can do it. Shearer can do it, as can Owen, Bergkamp and Le Tissier (remember him, Mr Hoddle!).

Sadly Ince and Barry don't qualify. They need more practice to reach the excellence of world-class players.

So no more whingeing from Mr Hoddle. Penalties are the best way to decide a drawn match. The players he selected just weren't good enough.

Yours sincerely,
J. FLYNN,
Arran Cottage,
Greenacres,
Plumpton, Cumbria CA11 9PF.
July 8.

From Mr Bryan Avery

Sir, When Brazil and Holland have given their all, just as England, Argentina and others did, and after two hard hours there is nothing left to distinguish between them — what unutterable sadness there is in the penalty shoot-out. The game is over, the rest is a lottery, so why not just accept it and let the players bask in their glory — they've done enough.

Let the manager, the coach, the physiotherapist, the psycho-advisers and those who know best from behind the safety of the touchlines then have a go. It'll end just the same — by chance — but wouldn't it give us all a good laugh and a lighter mood to end on?

Yours faithfully,
B. R. AVERY,
Avery Associates (London) Ltd,
Vigilant House,
120 Wilton Road, SW1V 1JZ.
July 8.

From Mr John Freeman

Sir, A penalty shoot-out is as much like football as Russian roulette is like warfare. Why not just send both goalkeepers off after the first goal of extra time?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FREEMAN,
12 Denton Road,
Twickenham TW1 2HQ.
July 6.

From Mr David Burn

Sir, Do National Lottery winners think to themselves: "Golly! This is just like a penalty shoot-out"?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BURN,
9 Lower Park, Putney Hill, SW15 6QY.
dburn@btinternet.com
July 8.

Broniti diagnosis

From Dr Denis Cushman

Sir, Dr Thomas Stuttaford's article on TB (Body and Mind, July 2) is accompanied by a picture of Charlotte Broniti with a caption saying that her life might have been saved by antibiotics, had these been available.

While Charlotte undoubtedly suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis, the cause of her death was almost certainly *hyperemesis gravidarum*, a complication of pregnancy unrecognised at that time but not a condition in which antibiotics are indicated.

I am, Sir, your ageing but obedient servant,
DENIS CUSHMAN,
4 Derwent Road,
Cullercoats,
Tyne and Wear NE30 3AH.
July 2.

Shades of Twain

From Dame Kathleen Raven

Sir, I applaud the sentiments about the NHS expressed in your first leader of July 3. I welcome the reference to Michael Portillo's very perceptive lecture on that topic.

However, while it is true that the lecture was delivered under arrangements which I endowed some years ago, it was not, I am happy to point out, the "Kathleen A. Raven Memorial Lecture". I was in fact present at the lecture myself.

Yours faithfully,
KATHLEEN A. RAVEN,
Jesmond, Burcot, Wing,
Mr Leighton Buzzard,
Bedfordshire LU7 0JU.
July 4.

Campbell's corner?

From Mr Solomon Green

Sir, Twice in the last ten days (letters, July 1 and 9) you have made valuable space on your letters page available to Mr Alastair Campbell. Would it not be preferable to offer him a weekly column in which the Prime Minister's Chief Press Secretary can explain how he has been misunderstood and deny reports from lesser journalists?

Yours faithfully,
S. J. GREEN,
261 Sheen Lane, SW14 8RN.
sosgreen@btinternet.com
July 9.

phrases

centralisation". A former socialist... Mr. Howells... He found navigation difficult... "We're not putting dead hands on anything..."

Editorials will know if we needed

MAN'S DEFENCE EDITOR... Dr Reid... "I'm not sure... I'm not sure... I'm not sure..."

OBITUARIES

SIR CHARLES CUNNINGHAM

Sir Charles Cunningham, GCB, KBE, CVO, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Home Office, 1957-66. Died on July 7 aged 92. He was born on May 7, 1906.

Charles Cunningham was one of the foremost civil servants of his age. Permanent Under-Secretary to four successive Home Secretaries...

A man of liberal opinions — he always, for example, opposed capital punishment though under his first two Secretaries of State he had to play his own part in the grisly process of seeing that death warrants were duly signed...

He went on, however, to have a most distinguished post-Home Office career — serving as deputy chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority from 1966 to 1971...

1971 and from 1973 to 1974 as chairman of the Uganda Resettlement Board charged with making the arrangements for the reception and rehousing of the Kenya Asian British passport holders who came to this country in the early 1970s...

Charles Craik Cunningham was born in Dundee, the son of a bookseller and stationer. A classic example of the Scottish "lad of parts", he won every available prize at his school — the Harris Academy in Dundee — and carried off scholarships and first-class honours at St Andrews University...

The possessor of an outstanding intellect, he immediately won a place in the administrative grade of the Scottish Civil Service, where his talents were recognised in his first appointment as private secretary to the Permanent Under-Secretary of State in London.

Placed very much on the fast track, by 1935 he was private secretary to the Secretary of State for Scotland, serving among others Walter Elliot and becoming great friends with him.

The outbreak of war in 1939 — with the opening of St Andrews House in Edinburgh on the very day war was declared — saw him back in Scotland, and he was to spend the next 18 years there, rapidly rising up the ladder of the Scottish Office...



Cunningham as Permanent Under-Secretary at the Home Office

Criminal Justice Act (1949) — that first attracted the interest of the Cabinet Secretary and the Home Office in London.

His move from St Andrews House was not unprecedented — William Murrie had made a similar transfer some ten years earlier to be deputy permanent under-secretary at

the Home Office — but vaulting from Edinburgh into the top job was highly unusual, and a striking tribute to his abilities. It was the more so, as, rightly or wrongly, the Home Office had gained the reputation of being an inward-looking department, with a bunker mentality.

Into this culture Cunningham, as an outsider whose whole career had been spent in another government department, might well have come as a breath of fresh air. But, alas, his essentially conformist nature — his motto was always said to be "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly" —

probably from the outset rendered this impossible.

He promptly went native, adopting the customs and practices of the department, rather than the other way about. It was this which led to the ultimate clash with Roy Jenkins, who arrived at the Home Office with all the zeal of a liberal reformer in December 1965.

There was no element of personal animosity in their relationship — Cunningham was later to speak of there having been "no lack of consultation or collaboration". And, with typical fairness, he felt that, if things had been less easy with Jenkins than they had been with either Frank Soskice or Henry Brooke (neither of them, as it happens, glorious successes in the post of Home Secretary) then "it was perhaps a criticism of me".

For his part, once he had achieved his various objectives, which included bringing in his own private secretary from the Ministry of Aviation and introducing the alien presence of "a political adviser" into the traditionalist ambience of the Home Office, Jenkins did his best to reciprocate — only drawing the line at granting Cunningham the year's extension beyond the normal retirement age of 60 that he thought he had negotiated with Soskice.

Even so, however, when it came to Cunningham's retirement party, Jenkins could not resist one barb — announcing that he was proud to have assembled "four Home Secretaries, all of whom have served under Sir Charles".

Charles Cunningham was appointed CVO in 1941, CB in 1946, KBE in 1952 and advanced first to KCB in 1961 and then to GCB in 1974. After the death of his wife in 1990 — he had married Edith Webster in 1924 — he lived the last part of his life in Edinburgh, looking after himself in a flat there until forced to go into a nursing home last September.

He is survived by his two daughters.

ERIC MOSBACHER

Eric Mosbacher, journalist and translator, died on July 2 aged 94. He was born on December 22, 1903.

IN A career of 35 years in journalism Eric Mosbacher had worked as a reporter and sub-editor on the Daily Express and the Evening Standard in the years between the wars. After the war he spent 13 years as a foreign sub-editor on The Times.

A distinguished linguist, he was known to the wider world for his translations from the Italian, French, German and Spanish, some of which were done with his wife Gwenda David. During the war he served in Intelligence and at its end went to Germany where he was involved in the work of founding a free press in a country trying to redeem itself from the moral catastrophe of Nazism.

Born in London, Eric Mosbacher was educated at St Paul's School and Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he read French and Italian. He graduated in 1924 with a distinction in spoken Italian.

He began his journalistic career in the mid-1920s on provincial newspapers, very soon afterwards joining the Daily Express as a reporter. From there he moved to the Evening Standard, first as a reporter and then as a sub-editor.

He served some time as assistant editor of the weekly periodical Everyman and before the war edited Anglo-American News, the journal of the American Chamber of Commerce in London. In tandem he was active as a publisher's reader and translator of books.

Although he had always intended to be a conscientious objector in the event of another world war, the notion of Hitler was too much for him, and he joined the Army on the day war was declared in September 1939. He worked first as an interpreter interrogating Italian prisoners of war before being seconded in 1943 to the Political Intelligence Department where he worked alongside Sefton Delmer at Woburn. There his languages and his journalistic experience were harnessed in the production of a German-language newspaper designed to dent the morale of the German public. Up to two million copies of it were dropped nightly on Germany by RAF Bomber Command.

In June 1945 he was sent to the British-occupied Rhineland to start two German newspapers, Kölnischer Kurier and Ruhr-Zeitung, which were intended to set a new standard of open, free-speech journalism to a country which had become saturated with the unvarying diet of such Nazi propaganda sheets as Völkischer Beobachter. He subsequently returned to London as director of news services for the German/Austrian Division of the Political Intelligence Department, later to become general editor of the German and Austrian section of the Information Services Division in the Control Office for Germany. Mosbacher was demobilised in 1946 in the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

He then spent two years as a public relations officer at the Ministry of Town and Country Planning before joining the staff of The Times in 1948. Both then, and after resigning in 1960, he continued with his translating work. This had started when he was introduced by his wife to the works of the Italian novelist Ignazio Silone.

His translation of Silone's anti-Fascist novel Fontamara in 1934 brought the novelist's work to the notice of British readers. He subsequently translated the bulk of the novels Silone published until his death in 1978.

Mosbacher's other translations included Freud's Psychoanalysis and Faith and The Origins of Psychoanalysis; Secret Tibet by Fosco Maraini and The Fight Against Cancer by Charles Oberling. He was awarded the John Florio Prize for translation from the Italian and the Schlegel Tieck Prize for translation from the German, the latter on two occasions.

Mosbacher is remembered by colleagues at The Times, where he was greatly liked, for his mercurial temperament and his sparkling sense of humour. As a sub-editor he was highly respected and if The Times's lead story happened to be a foreign one, he would almost invariably be assigned to handle it. He shared a lifelong passion for walking with his wife Gwenda, and they had hiked in most of the countries of Europe together. Until late in life he was still enjoying a stroll over Hampstead Heath, on the edge of which he and his wife lived.

She survives him with their daughter and son.



Mosbacher sweeping snow from the steps of his Hampstead home during the bitter winter of 1986

PROFESSOR RONNIE CAMPBELL



Professor Ronnie Campbell, cardiologist, died on June 13 aged 51. He was born on October 11, 1946.

WITH the death of Ronnie Campbell, the country has lost one of its most talented and popular cardiologists, a man who spent years studying and teaching the complexities of abnormal heart rhythms. It was, therefore, a cruel twist of fate which led to his dying suddenly from a heart attack while president of the British Cardiac Society.

As a schoolboy from the age of 11 at Dollar Academy, Ronnie Campbell demonstrated a practical interest in

electronics, making crystal sets and valve radios and taking apart old television sets. His father even queried medicine as his choice of career, given his obvious electronic skills and his love of repairing things. But he chose medicine and went to Edinburgh University at the age of 16, qualifying in medicine at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

He subsequently worked as a house officer and later a registrar in Kircaldy and Edinburgh before taking up his first cardiology post at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 1976.

He started work in what was to become a lifelong interest: the suppression of

cardiac arrhythmias with drugs and the early detection of patients at most risk of arrhythmias following a heart attack. A year later he went as a Wellcome Research Fellow to what was then the home of American Cardiac Electrophysiology — Duke University, North Carolina.

Over the next twenty years his output was prodigious: he published more than 280 medical papers. He studied a variety of ways of dealing with malignant ventricular arrhythmias, from drugs, surgery, implantable defibrillators and ablation. He realised that the ordinary surface electrocardiogram could hold a

clue to the diagnosis of patients at risk, if carefully analysed.

Later in 1976 he worked for a while as a locum in a single-handed practice in Northern Canada. Although he had a distinction in obstetrics and gynaecology in his finals, he was not keen on delivering babies in the local hospital and made every effort to fly them down to greater expertise in Winnipeg. He revelled in the hair-raising exploits of transporting patients by air. He loved air travel and was later to become a member of the Civil Aviation Authority's medical advisory board.

On returning to England he settled for the rest of his life in Newcastle at the Freeman Hospital, initially with a British Heart Foundation junior research fellowship, winning the young investigators award of the British Cardiac Society in 1979, and later becoming a senior lecturer. Finally he was appointed as the British Heart Foundation Professor of Clinical Cardiology in 1986 at the early age of 40.

As well as being a scientist, he was a great communicator and teacher. He could mesmerise an audience in minutes with a combination of easy eloquence, humour and practical common sense. His lectures were always immaculately prepared and delivered in a relaxed and logical way. At the end of one of his lectures there was always the realisation of just how much ground he had covered without any apparent haste. This talent led to him being invited to speak at or to chair cardiology meetings all over the world. He became an outstanding ambassador for British cardiology, being appointed as a visiting professor in cardiology at the universities of

Toronto, Hong Kong, Adelaide and Atlanta. In Europe he was made chairman of the European Society of Cardiology working group on cardiac arrhythmias and became treasurer of the British Cardiac Society in 1992. In this role he was in his element and was probably the only person who could have succeeded in virtually doubling the annual subscription to the society without any complaints from the membership. He was elected as president of the British Cardiac Society in 1997.

He had many interests and loved gadgets. He was never separated from his gadget bag which contained, among other things, at least one mobile phone, and a digital video camera which popped out at unsuitable moments.

At Newcastle he was elected president of the Students' Society and produced a legendary film in which he cut and pasted filmed interviews with the academic staff. The ludicrous montage gave the impression that a hospital porter speaking broad Geordie was the only candidate to qualify for admission.

His timetable was so tight that every hour seemed to be booked up twelve months ahead. He had broad, comprehensive tastes in music and loved astronomy with his own high-powered telescope at home. No evening was complete without his tour of the night sky. He himself never seemed to need any sleep. He spent what little spare time he had renovating an old Quaker house in Cumbria, "Dun Quakin". With his practical skills he wanted to do most of the work himself.

He is survived by his wife Agnes, whom he married in 1969, and by their daughter.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS... the nec birmingham... You can rely on the RAF... Can the RAF rely on you?

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THE KING AND QUEEN

The following correspondence passed between the King and Queen a year after their marriage, and within two months of the birth of their daughter —

"WINDSOR-CASTLE, APRIL 30, 1976 "MADAM,—As Lord Cholmondeley informs me that you wish I would define, in writing, the terms upon which we are to live, I shall endeavour to explain myself upon that head with as much clearness and with as much propriety as the nature of the subject will admit. Our inclinations are not in our power, nor should either of us be held answerable to the other, because nature has not made us suitable to each other. Tranquillity and comfortable society is, however, in our power: let our intercourse, therefore, be restricted to that, and I will distinctly subscribe to the condition which you required, through Lady Cholmondeley, that even in the event of any accident happening to my daughter, which I trust Providence in its mercy will avert, I shall not infringe the terms of the restriction by proposing, at any period, a connection of a more particular nature. I shall now finally close this disagreeable correspondence, trusting that, as we have completely explained ourselves to each other, the rest of our lives

ON THIS DAY

July 10, 1820

Immediately after the death of George III (who had been favourably disposed towards Caroline) in 1820, the new King began to disown his wife, and on July 9 a Divorce Bill was introduced. The Times was her champion and published these letters to show how George had repudiated his promises of "uninterrupted tranquillity".

ANSWER

"I should have returned no answer to your letter, if it had not been conceived in terms to make it doubtful whether this arrangement proceeds from you, or from me; and you are aware that the credit of it belongs to you alone. "The letter which you announce to me as the last obliges me to communicate to the King, as to my Sovereign and my Father, both your avowal and my answer. You will find enclosed the copy of my letter to the King, I apprise you of it, that I may not incur the slightest reproach of duplicity from you. As I have at this moment no protector but his Majesty, I refer myself solely to him upon this subject; and if my conduct meets his approbation, I shall be in some degree at least consoled. I retain every sentiment of gratitude for the situation in which I find myself, as Princess of Wales, enabled by your means to indulge in the free exercise of a virtue dear to my heart — I mean charity. "It will be my duty, likewise, to act upon another motive — that of giving an example of patience and resignation under every trial. "Do me the justice to believe that I shall never cease to pray for your happiness, and to be "Your much devoted "6th of May, 1796" "CAROLINE"

NEWS

Rates rise rejected - for now

Homeowners, industry and exporters reacted with relief as the Bank of England drew back from a fresh rise in interest rates. The Bank's nine-member Monetary Policy Committee confounded the City and Westminster by deciding - at least for the time being - against adding to the six rate rises since the general election which have put about £60 a month on a £60,000 mortgage. Pages 1, 23, 27, 29

Ulster teeters on the brink

Northern Ireland lurched closer to confrontation when a 90-minute meeting at Downing Street between Tony Blair and Orange Order leaders ended with no sign of a resolution to the Drumcree stand-off. David Trimble, the Province's First Minister, issued a warning of an "awesome prospect" unless the impasse was resolved within 24 hours. Pages 1, 6

Red card for advert

The sports company Nike withdrew newspaper advertisements featuring David Beckham's sending off in the World Cup after objections from the England footballer's lawyers. Page 1

Gene crop challenge

An organic farmer began a legal fight against government approval for genetically engineered maize beside his land. Page 11

Martys honoured

Relatives of ten modern Christian martyrs who died for their faith looked on as the Archbishop of Canterbury unveiled statues of the martyrs on the west front of Westminster Abbey. Pages 1, 4

Mansell fights euro

Nigel Mansell, the former Formula One champion, made a surprising entrance in the race to save the pound, saying that "there could be an almighty crash". Page 10

Actor counts costs

Bill Roache, the Coronation Street actor, faces a £200,000 legal bill after losing a court battle to sue the solicitors Peter Carter-Ruck over advice about pursuing a libel case. Page 3

Hospital hazard

Pork pies are better protected from infection than hospital patients, as a result, one patient in ten is discharged with an infection that was not present on admission. Page 13

Liddle share claim

The Downing Street adviser at the centre of the cash-for-access controversy placed shares worth £260,000 in a blind trust run by a neighbour, Tories said. Page 2

Venice rescue plan

International experts recommended that Italy try to save Venice by building a system of mobile flood barriers. Page 15

Garden defended

Supporters of the £10 million garden in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, denied that it would become a "Diana Disneyworld". Page 5

Arafat renews threat

Yasser Arafat repeated his threat to declare Palestinian independence on or after May 4 next year, the deadline for the conclusion of final status peace talks with Israel which have been deadlocked since opening in 1996. Page 17

Poll tax sentence

A wheelchair-bound grandmother aged 71 was jailed for three months for failing to pay £600 poll tax arrears dating back eight years. Page 9

Post mortem awaited

There were outbreaks of violence as Nigeria awaited the arrival of an international team of pathologists, who will conduct a post-mortem examination on Chief Moshood Abiola. Page 16

Sleepless neighbour strikes back

When Graham Jones lies in bed and tires of counting sheep, he counts the chimes of his neighbour's clock instead. But for Mr Jones, the 639 chimes that sound between 11pm and 7.30am are anything but restful. The retired farmer has launched a private prosecution against his 91-year-old neighbour to silence her grandmother clock. Page 3



Top of the form: Philip Dalling, of Nottingham University, with Kate Adie after her graduation ceremony yesterday. The university presented Ms Adie, the BBC's chief news correspondent, with the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters

BUSINESS

Dealers: The US stock market regulator is to charge 100 traders with manipulating the world's biggest electronic stock market. Page 27

SPORT

World Cup: Laurent Blanc, sent off in France's semi-final victory over Croatia, received a two-match suspension and will miss the final against Brazil. Page 52

ARTS

Richard Morrison: "The lure of violence to sell entertainment is not confined to record companies trying to flog chunks of Wagner to unreconstructed thugs". Page 34

FEATURES

Mules drools: Jane Shilling finds the most stylish sandals at the best price. Page 20

Supermarkets: Somerfield is planning to spend £1 billion on converting Kwik Save stores to the Somerfield format after their merger earlier this year. Page 27

Motor racing: Michael Schumacher was said to be close to a deal that will keep him at Ferrari for another two years. The price could be £50 million. Page 49

Simon says: After 30 successful New York comedies set indoors, Neil Simon gives us a weekend in the country in his new play, Proposals, now in Leeds. Page 34

Neck and neck: Finish off a summer slip dress with a delicate beaded necklace. Page 20

Economy: Interest rates were left on hold by the Bank of England but the Chancellor gave warning that rates could rise again unless there was pay restraint "from the boardroom down". Page 27

Golf: Tom Lehman, the 1996 Open champion, came to the defence of Colin Montgomerie but suggested that the Scot needed to improve his public image. Page 46

Heavenly body: The young Japanese artist Mariko Mori brings her surreal world to the Serpentine Gallery in a series of seductive yet baffling installations. Page 35

Sour note: Is Tibor Rudas, the man who lured the Three Tenors out of La Scala and into the casino, opera's most hated man? Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 39.9 points to close at 5969.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 105.7 to 105.8 after a fall from \$1.6375 to \$1.6303 but a rise from DM2.9768 to DM2.9817. Page 30

Cricket: Leicestershire, the only county still involved on all four domestic fronts, have been drawn against Warwickshire in the quarter-finals of the NatWest Trophy. Page 46

Pop on Friday: The week's new albums reviewed by David Sinclair, including the debut by Eagle-Eye Cherry, and Caitlin Moran prepares for some Saturday mourning. Page 36

Sour note: Is Tibor Rudas, the man who lured the Three Tenors out of La Scala and into the casino, opera's most hated man? Page 21



TOMORROW

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

AND BABY MAKES THREE Joanna Pitman's adventures of a new mum

ANNE ROBINSON Why do feminists end up celibate?

EDUCATION

Happy talk: French and English boarders at a school in Kent converse easily in each other's languages. Pages 41, 42

Summer offensive: How Oxford University is trying to lure more students from comprehensive schools. Page 41

MEDIA

Off-line: Michael Leapman on the BBC's worrying drift from its public service remit. Page 40

Missionary zeal: Raymond Snoddy talks to David Docherty, whose mission is to give the BBC a central role in a 200-channel digital future. Page 38

THE PAPERS

The reason proffered by Nigeria's military rulers for seizing power some 15 years ago was to prevent precisely the sort of violent and chaotic conditions which have now engulfed the country as a result of their rule. - The Cape Argus

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Preview: The docu-soap star Jane McDonald marries in The Cruise Special (BBC1, 8.15pm). Review: Paul Hoggart makes a rare visit to Albert Square. Pages 50, 51

OPINION

Lords in Parliament

It remains to be seen whether politicians of any party will embrace a reform that would create an effective revising chamber. The public might agree with James Madison, main author of the American Constitution, that "those who cannot stand scrutiny should not be offered political authority". Page 23

An inappropriate folly

If public money is to be spent on a memorial, it should help those people whom the Princess cared about - and not turn a Royal Park into a theme park. Page 23

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

Allegations about "sleaze" and wrongdoing generally only make a lasting impact on the public when other things are going wrong for a Government. And that has not yet happened. Page 14

MATTHEW PARRIS

Damage limitation? This is the damage! It's the varnish that is rotting the woodwork. Mr Blair could have won as well, and governed better, without every man-jack of these image-smiths. Page 22

PHILIP HOWARD

The exposure of flagrant cronyism at new Labour's top table (seating capacity: max 17) comes as no surprise. For the old-boy network is a part of human nature as old as civilisation. Page 22

DANIEL JOHNSON

I felt a frisson when the fax from Friedrichsruh arrived: an invitation to commemorate the centenary of the death of Bismarck next week at his old country seat near Hamburg. Page 22

OBITUARIES

Sir Charles Cunningham, former Permanent Secretary at the Home Office; Eric Mosbacher, journalist and translator; Professor Ronnie Campbell, cardiologist. Page 25

LETTERS

EMU and the "common good"; Lords reform; World Cup penalties; historic documents on e-mail; Russian Orthodox Church; salami slicing. Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,840

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28.

- ACROSS: 1 Force politician into clumsy lie (5), 4 All hard cases in this family (9), 9 Sir Maurice? (9), 10 Fighting to terminate in knock-out (5), 11 How one may be evicted, in all cases? (3,3,7), 14 Too many bad workmen tend to blame it (4), 15 City copy for magazine (5,5), 18 Revolutionary quarter? (3,5), 19 Before conversion, his original character was differing (4), 21 Cramped space in stifling billets (5,8), 24 Biblical character producing no end of a minor riot (5), 25 Downtrodden machine-worker (4-5), 27 Less gentle on each Oriental (9), 28 Goodness is a major point in compassion (5). DOWN: 1 Cases of cultural development (10), 2 Writer of verse, not essay (3), 3 Discovers money makes money (6), 4 Problem afoot? Bill misplaced in sequence (9), 5 Remove covering from a European fiddle (5), 6 Prepare to fight to obtain knight's insignia (4,4), 7 Focus one's attention on money in box (1,1), 8 Eager to work in silver (4), 12 It was given to Maltese boatman on bridge (6,5), 13 Buggy Malone production presenting no problems? (6,4), 16 Bad temper the result of sick jokes? (3-6), 17 Raised issue concerning volunteers: Never! (2,2,4), 20 Happen to get increased yield (4,2), 22 Delicate and charming female trapped by rising river (5), 23 One bent on submission (4), 26 Appropriate fee to be paid (3).

Latest Road and Weather conditions

Table with road and weather conditions for various regions like UK Roads, Wales, etc.

Weather by Fax

Table listing weather forecasts for various cities like London, Manchester, etc.

World City Weather

Table showing weather conditions for various world cities like London, New York, etc.

Car reports by fax

Text providing car reports and contact information for AA.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing hours of darkness for various locations like London, Edinburgh, etc.

FORECAST

General: mostly cloudy with a little sunshine breaking through at times, mainly in the east. Risk of light rain, especially in the west. Temperatures about seasonal average. London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands: mostly cloudy with the risk of light rain later. A light southwest wind. Max 23C (73F). Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: Cloudy with rain and drizzle at times. A moderate south-west wind. Max temp 17-19C (63-66F). N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: mostly cloudy with risk of light showers. A light southwest wind. Max 18C (65F). Central N & NE England: a lot of cloud but some sunny breaks and the odd light shower. A light southwest wind. Max 20C (68-69F).

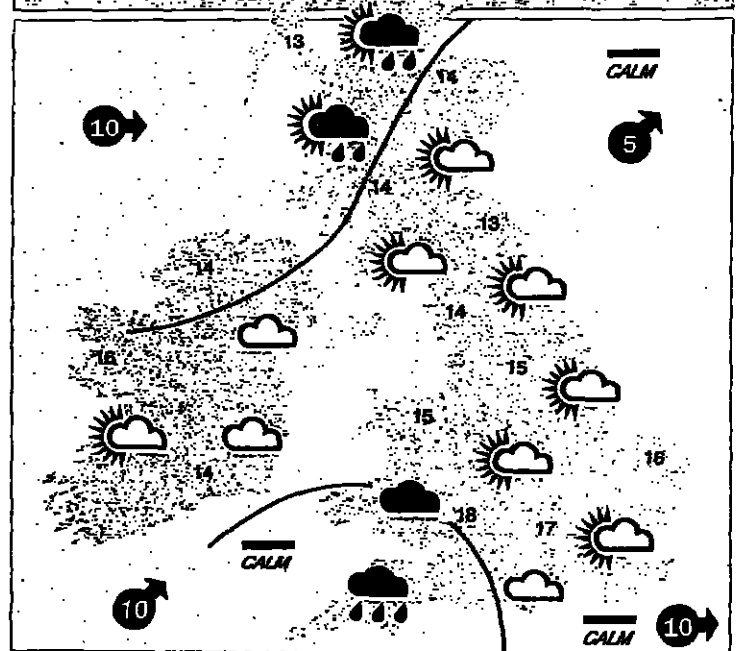
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday for various locations like Aberdeen, London, etc.

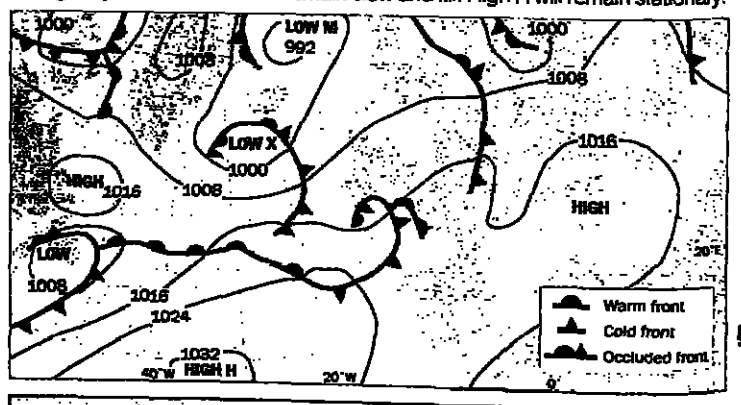
ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions for various international locations like Moscow, Tokyo, etc.

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: Low M will remain slow moving with little change in pressure. Low X will remain slow and fill. High H will remain stationary.



HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations like Aberdeen, London, etc.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table showing highest and lowest temperatures for various locations.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Recycled paper made up of 41% of the new material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

WORK DAYS LOST DUE TO HEAT. None, if you've installed Toshiba. A RELIABLE FORECAST BEYOND 2001. Proven reliability, backed by a 3 year warranty and a national network of trained installation and maintenance engineers.

TOSHIBA THE PRINCIPAL NAME IN AIR CONDITIONING. A RELIABLE FORECAST BEYOND 2001. Proven reliability, backed by a 3 year warranty and a national network of trained installation and maintenance engineers.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'SEC TO', '100', 'oil', 'Snowden', 'action cost', 'Ford gears u'.

THE TIMES

2

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Preview: The docu-soap star Jane M. Donald marries in *The Cruise Special* (BBC1, 8.15pm). Review: Paul Hoggart makes a rare visit to Albert Square. Pages 50, 51

OPINION

Lords in Parliament
It remains to be seen whether the return of a party will create an effective chamber. The public might agree with James Watson, author of the American Constitution, that those who cannot stand scrutiny should not be elected to a public authority. Page 3

AN INAPPROPRIATE FOLLY

It is not to be spent on a parade. It should help those who are not in the Princess's case. And not turn a Royal Parade into a pageant. Page 2

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL
The "about" clause is a general only makes sense in the public eye. And that has not happened. Page 1

MATTHEW PARRIS
This is the same as the version that is more than well and good. And that has not happened. Page 2

PHILIP HOWARD
The same as the version that is more than well and good. And that has not happened. Page 2

DANIEL JOHNSON
The same as the version that is more than well and good. And that has not happened. Page 2

OBITUARIES
The same as the version that is more than well and good. And that has not happened. Page 2

LETTERS
The same as the version that is more than well and good. And that has not happened. Page 2

ON TODAY
The same as the version that is more than well and good. And that has not happened. Page 2

LOWEST
The same as the version that is more than well and good. And that has not happened. Page 2

BEYOND 2001
The same as the version that is more than well and good. And that has not happened. Page 2

INSIDE SECTION

2

TODAY



BUSINESS

Celebrity chums help radio stations tune into profits
PAGES 31



ARTS

Eagle-Eye Cherry: great new name on the pop block
PAGES 34-36



MEDIA

Exposing the tyranny of the beauty industry
PAGES 37-40

IRISH JOY AS TOUR COMES TO TOWN

SPORT

44-52

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JULY 10 1998

More than 30 Wall Street firms accused over price manipulation

SEC to charge 100 traders on Nasdaq

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE Securities & Exchange Commission is to charge 100 traders on Nasdaq with manipulating the world's biggest electronic stock market to widen the spread between bid and offer prices.

The US financial industry regulator is preparing charges against the traders and three dozen Wall Street houses, including Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley and PaineWebber after a two-year investigation, one of the biggest in Wall Street history.

The case is based on extensive recordings of conversations between traders at different banks.

The trading scandal at America's second-biggest exchange is threatening to undermine Nasdaq's current marketing drive and expansion plan in Europe.

In the first UK television advertising campaign for a stock exchange, Nasdaq presents itself as the new, dynamic face of Wall Street. Deutsche Börse, the German exchange, and Nasdaq are planning a strategic alliance.

It is also a personal setback for Alfred Berkeley, its president, who has strived to protect Nasdaq's reputation through the use of new technology. The Nasdaq market lists many small and fast-growing companies. Their often volatile shares are not as widely traded as blue chip stocks on the New York Stock Exchange.

The charges against some of the more than 5,000 Nasdaq traders first surfaced in 1994

when an academic study claimed that patterns of trading suggested "tacit collusion" between market participants.

The academic study triggered an investigation of trading practices and in 1996 Nasdaq increased supervision as part of a Justice Department settlement. But late last year they have been spared the additional charge of failing to supervise traders, which could have been far costlier.

The banks have 30 days to respond to the charges.

The Wall Street houses are trying to negotiate a settlement with the SEC. The banks hope to keep suspensions to a minimum and rule out lifetime bans, an investigator said. The identities of the traders involved are not known and their employers are fighting to prevent investigators from naming them.

Nasdaq yesterday insisted that the scandal would not harm its expansion plans. John Wall, the Nasdaq International president, said he wanted the US exchange to form an alliance with a possible future pan-European electronic stock exchange.

Mr Wall said: "Would we like to see a pan-European electronic market created and linked to the Nasdaq market? Yes, that goes to the very roots of the Nasdaq stock market. We would like to be able to have the US investor participate with the European investor." The London Stock Exchange and Frankfurt are planning a joint venture, burying years of rivalry.

Many traders, whose conversations were monitored by the SEC for several months,

will face a bill for several hundred thousand dollars, as well as a suspension or lifetime ban. The bid-offer spread that traders had widened represents their profit margin.

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Nasdaq's efforts to present itself as the new dynamic face of Wall Street may be undermined

Bonuses still boosting earnings figures

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE City's view that a further rise in interest rates is still possible was strengthened yesterday by figures showing that bonuses continue to drive up average earnings.

The bonus effect, although not the actual May average earnings figure which is due to be published next Wednesday, was inadvertently revealed yesterday by the Office for National Statistics.

The ONS denied the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee had been given access to these figures before this week's meeting to discuss interest rates.

The ONS estimates May average earnings were boosted 0.6 per cent by bonuses. This is only a touch below the 0.7 per cent effect estimated for April, suggesting that bonuses continue to exert upward pressure on earnings, one of the MPC's main concerns.

March was the month when the bonus effect was estimated to have been biggest — 1.4 per cent according to the ONS. Most economists anticipated the effect would begin to wear off in April and ease further in May but this does not appear to have been the case.

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Smith Barney, said that the risk of a further rate rise is still high unless data over the next few months show lower earnings growth, an easing in labour market pressures or a sharp further deceleration in economic growth. He predicted that rates will rise again in the next month or two as the MPC tries to ensure that the economic slowdown is long enough and deep enough to counteract pressures on wages.

Exporters' relief, page 1
Commentary, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5989.7	(-39.9)
Yield	2.75%	
FTSE All share	2802.80	(-13.80)
Nasdaq	18448.95	(-84.02)
New York		
Dow Jones	9144.08	(-30.89)
S&P Composite	1165.82	(-0.46)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	10 7/8%	(10 7/8%)
Yield	5.60%	(5.62%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7 1/8%	(7 1/8%)
Life long call		
Future (Sep)	108.15	(108.55)

STERLING

New York	1.6315*	(1.6385)
London		
DM	1.6304	(1.6372)
DM	2.9822	(2.9782)
FF	9.9957	(9.9771)
Yen	2.5122	(2.4926)
Yen	230.32	(228.76)
£ Index	105.8	(105.7)

DOLLAR

London	1.8303*	(1.8180)
DM	6.1330*	(6.0990)
FF	130.90	(130.80)
Yen	141.28*	(139.42)
£ Index	113.7	(113.0)

Tokyo close Yen 140.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep) \$13.50 (\$13.40)

GOLD

London close \$291.35 (\$292.45)

* denotes midday trading price

Greetings

Hallmark, the American greetings cards and gift wrap company, launched an agreed £188 million bid for Creative Publishing, Britain's largest greetings cards group. Keith Chapman, chairman of Creative Publishing, stands to make £16 million from the deal. Page 29

Trust war

A bidding war broke out in the investment trust world yesterday as Aberdeen Asset Managers attempted to wrest control of the £578 million Scottish National Investment Trust from rival fund manager Gartmore. Page 28

Snowden High Court action cost GTech \$1m

By JON ASHWORTH

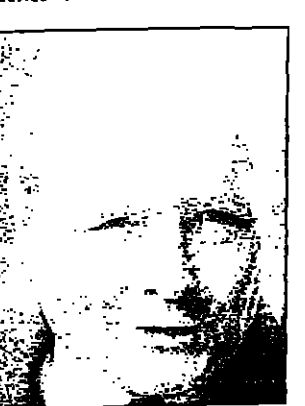
GTech, the National Lottery supplier, spent \$1 million (£600,000) defending Guy Snowden, its former chairman, in his failed High Court libel battle with Richard Branson, the Virgin entrepreneur.

The disgraced businessman is considering appealing against the jury's decision that he tried to bribe Mr Branson to stay out of the lottery race. Howell James, a former key adviser to John Major, has been recruited to lead Mr Snowden's fight back to respectability.

Mr Snowden severed all links with GTech in the wake of the court proceedings. Confirming the cost of the legal battle, William O'Connor, his successor as GTech's chief executive officer and president, told *The Times* that he was hopeful of teaming up again with Camelot, the UK lottery operator, when the current licence expires in 2001. However, Mr O'Connor conceded: "The company has

attracted a lot of ink in a problematic way."

GTech is no longer a Camelot shareholder, but has a supply contract with the consortium worth £30 million a year. Mr O'Connor said: "If we can win the bid, we will make a good team." The companies could find themselves competing for the licence to run South Africa's



O'Connor: Camelot link

lottery, due soon, putting the relationship under strain.

GTech's share price has fallen sharply on the back of UK developments and pessimism about the US gaming market, which is growing at 1 to 3 per cent per annum, compared with 12 to 14 per cent internationally. A leveraged buy-out or share buyback are among the options being considered.

GTech is the world's biggest supplier of systems and services to the gaming and lottery industries. It speaks for 65 per cent of world lottery contracts, and claims the market is only 50 per cent saturated. Contracts are pending in South Africa, Taiwan and Thailand. Mr O'Connor said: "The lottery business is healthy and alive, and has a good future."

Mr O'Connor's longer-term goal is to reposition GTech as a broadly based technology services company. He intends to spend a increasing amount of his time in the UK.

Somerfield puts £1bn into revamp of Kwik Save

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

SOMERFIELD, the supermarkets group that merged with Kwik Save earlier this year, is planning to invest £1 billion converting the latter's stores to the Somerfield format over the next five years.

About 700 jobs are to go at Kwik Save's headquarters, at Prestatyn, North Wales, which is to be shut next April, the company said yesterday. The group will be run from Somerfield's Bristol headquarters, which will absorb 100 staff who have decided to move there from Prestatyn. Somerfield also forecast that it will take on 5,000 staff in converted Kwik Save stores in the next 12 to 18 months.

David Simons, chief executive of Somerfield, said that synergy benefits of at least £50 million will come from the merger. This, and an announcement that current like-for-like trading at Somerfield is 3.9 per cent

up on a year ago, lifted the company's shares by 8.4 per cent to 426p, as analysts increased forecasts. Morgan Stanley raised its current-year pre-tax profit forecast from £197 million to £215 million.

Somerfield saw underlying pre-tax profits rise 12.4 per cent, to £114.2 million, in the year to April 25. After exceptional merger-related items, it made a pre-tax loss of £11.1 million. A 7.6p final dividend makes 11.4p, up from 10.2p.

Like-for-like sales at the Kwik Save stores were down 1.7 per cent in the last ten weeks, against a 3 per cent decline last year.

Somerfield closed 46 stores last year, including two discount Food Giants. Kwik Save shut more than 100 stores. About 120 closures are likely in the next two or three years.

Tempus, page 30

Ford gears up for £12m Dome experience

By JASON NISSE

FORD of Europe is close to agreeing a deal to plough up to £12 million into the Millennium Dome.

The move comes after intense behind-the-scenes lobbying of leading corporations by senior figures in the Labour administration in an attempt to meet the £150 million target for sponsorship in the giant exhibition.

The US-owned car group would not comment but it is understood to have agreed to a sponsorship deal with the New Millennium Experience Com-

pany, which will be running the Dome at Greenwich, and is currently sorting out the details.

The agreement will give it the status of "founding sponsor", joining companies such as Tesco, BT, BSKyB and Manpower in controlling one of up to 14 "experience zones" within the Dome.

Ford will sponsor a mobility zone, showing the future of transportation. Other car makers approached include Vauxhall and VW. The German group that recently bought Rolls-Royce.

Another deal close to being signed is

for Reuters, the financial information group, to back a zone organised by the Corporation of London which will concentrate on financial transactions.

Other sponsors who have agreed to back the project, but not necessarily finance an entire zone, are Marks & Spencer, British Airways and GEC. The total agreed so far is believed to be close to £100 million.

Although Mark McCormack's International Marketing Group is charged with raising the sponsorship for the Dome and could pick up commissions of more than £10 million

if the £150 million target is hit — it is understood that senior Labour figures are putting pressure on companies to take part.

Among the companies which are believed to be still in talks about backing zones are Boots, the retailer, and Citicorp, the US banking group.

Michael Fabricant, the Conservative MP, has been on the offensive about the amount of sponsorship signed up for the Dome, claiming it has been an embarrassing flop.

Commentary, page 29

The mother of all summer reads

ARTHUR HAILEY

A sizzling read! Mail on Sunday

from the father of the blockbuster ARTHUR HAILEY

'With the publication of this book, ingredients for the perfect summer holiday are now complete... hugely readable!'

Daily Telegraph

Aberdeen makes bid for Gartmore Scottish trust

By RICHARD MILES AND TIMON DAY

ABERDEEN Asset Managers yesterday attempted to wrest control of the £578 million Scottish National Investment Trust from rival fund manager Gartmore by offering shareholders capital increases of more than 7 per cent.

Scottish National, the UK's biggest split-capital investment trust, is due to be wound up at the end of September, but incumbent manager Gartmore has still to offer shareholders an alternative vehicle.

Without a rollover fund,

shareholders could face large capital gains tax bills. Their gains have been considerable, with some investors seeing the value of their shares increasing nearly eight-fold over the past six years.

Aberdeen has exploited Gartmore's inaction and offered investors the chance to swap their Scottish National Trust shares for stock in its Aberdeen Preferred Income Trust, which has increased in value to £260 million via a £120 million placing.

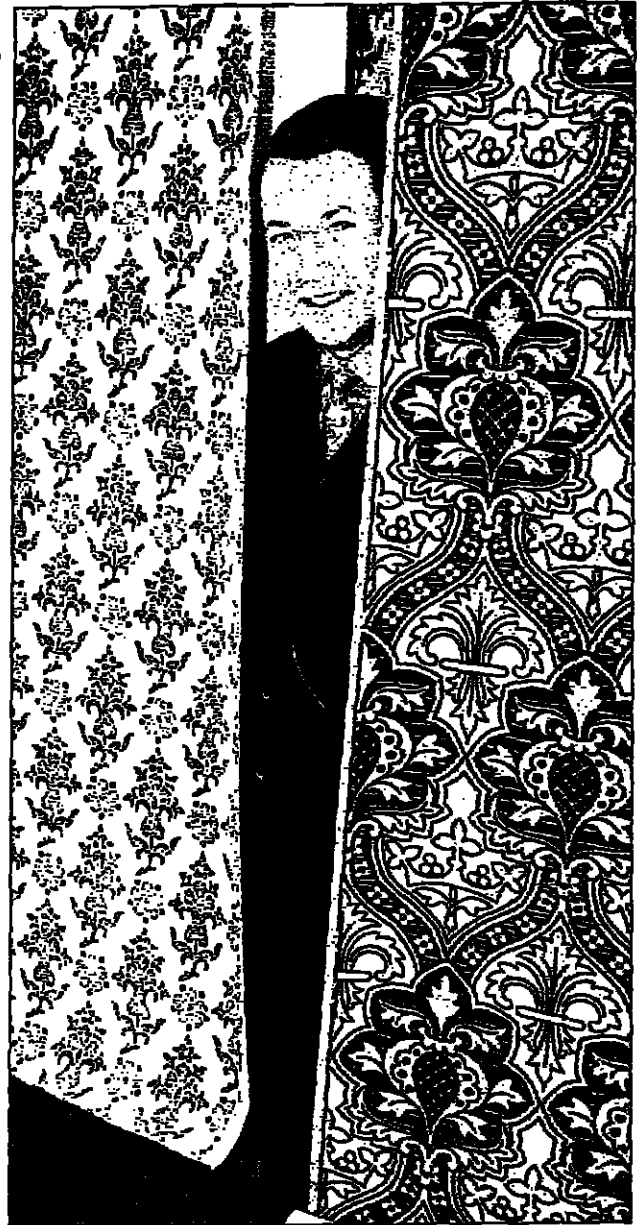
Chris Fishwick, a director at

Aberdeen, said he would liquidate the Scottish National portfolio to buy bonds and capital income shares if the bid succeeds. "The argument is about the structure of the Scottish trust rather than its investment performance," he said.

However, Gartmore responded angrily to Aberdeen's offer, which it described as tantamount to a hostile bid, and said it planned to launch its own successor trust for Scottish National shareholders. The trust's board also advised investors to sit tight for the time being.

Under Aberdeen's offer, investors will be offered 67 ordinary shares for every 100 Scottish National income shares, 148 dividend preference shares (zeros) for 100 Scottish zeros and 109 ordinary shares or 78 zeros for every 100 Scottish preference shares. Holders of capital shares are also included in the offer, but not owners of cumulative preference shares, debentures or warrants.

Existing Aberdeen Preferred shareholders, who need to approve the offer, are being offered a 10.3 per cent increase in dividends and a 5.3p uplift in the net asset value per share.



CHARLES WIGHTMAN, chief executive of Walker Greenbank, said that the wallovering and fabrics manufacturer is to return £42 million to shareholders after the £70 million disposal of its commercial wallcoverings businesses, which was announced yesterday. The walloverings businesses, which trade under the Brymor and Muraspac brands, are being sold to GenCorp Inc. The company's shares rose 8½p to 73p.

Brent aims to raise £60m by sell-offs

By PAUL DURMAN

BRENT INTERNATIONAL, the chemicals group, is planning to sell off two businesses representing more than half its sales and to concentrate on its metal surface treatment division.

Brent, capitalised at only £70 million yesterday morning, hopes to raise £60 million or more from the sales of its inks and coatings business and its imaging management operation, which is involved in pre-press work for packaging. Inks and coatings made profits of £4.4 million last year from sales of £50 million. Imaging management made £2.2 million from sales of £26.9 million, but its recent trading had been weak. Brent is already in talks with possible buyers.

Alec Daly, chairman, said the surface sciences and aerospace business that will remain offered Brent the best prospects. Although sales have been flat at around £55 million for three years, profits have almost doubled to £6.2 million last year.

Keith Hutchings, chief executive, said: "We believe we can grow this business over the next three to five years to sales of more than £150 million... and with a return on sales of more than 15 per cent." Brent is already examining several acquisitions.

Shares were up 13p to 116½p.

Tempus, page 30

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Arriva to buy largest Dutch bus company

ARRIVA, the transport group formerly known as Cowi, is poised to acquire the largest bus company in The Netherlands. Arriva said yesterday it is in exclusive talks with VSN-North, which runs 750 buses around Groningen, the country's second-largest city, as well as a dial-a-ride service for the disabled. Arriva already runs 100 buses in Groningen.

VSN-North, owned by the Dutch local authorities, generates annual sales of £100 million. Industry sources understand that Arriva is hoping to pay about £40 million — £70 million less than it would have to pay for a British bus company. Shares of Arriva, which plunged from 480p when it issued a profits warning from its car leasing division last month, rose 4½p to 367½p.

Bensons lifts margins

BENSON'S CRISPS, the snacks maker, says it is beginning to benefit from its programme of capital investment. Spending on packing equipment has led to improvements in operating margins and these fed through to an increase in pre-tax profits for the six months to May 31 from £615,000 to £811,000. Earnings at the company, which is a big supplier of own-brand crisps and snacks to Asda, the supermarket chain, rose from 0.8p a share to 1.1p and the interim dividend is 33 per cent higher at 0.5p a share.

Lasmo rig goes to Shell

THE Borgny Dolphin rig drilling off the Falkland Islands has been transferred to Royal Dutch/Shell after Lasmo, the British oil group, failed to strike oil. Shell is licensed to drill in an area east of where Amerada Hess abandoned a well in May. Lasmo said: "There are still grounds for optimism and we will continue to monitor subsequent wells being drilled by other companies." A total of 12,800 sq km, divided into seven tranches, have been licensed for drilling north of the Falklands in one of the world's last unexplored basins.

Centrica warns rivals

CENTRICA sent a warning to its rivals after announcing that 250,000 households would be buying its electricity once the market opened up to competition. The company, which trades as British Gas, also said a further 1.5 million were considering its offer, which it added was 12 per cent below current prices. From September more than 10 million homes will be able to choose their electricity supplier. Centrica has lost 2.5 million of its original 19 million customers since the gas market first opened to competition in 1996.

Enron fights gas block

THE Government may face a battle with the European Union over its moratorium on new gas-fired power stations amid anger from gas companies. Enron, which will have to shelve plans for gas power stations worth £800 million, said yesterday that it will "use any channel", including the EU and US diplomatic avenues, to fight the block, imposed to secure a market for coal. Ralph Hodge, chairman of Enron Europe, said the block would stifle development of environmentally friendly energy sources and increase electricity prices.

Cordiant agrees sale

CORDIANT, the advertising group, has signed a letter of intent to sell Churchill Group, a business-to-business advertising group based in Houston, to Bates Advertising. Churchill specialises in crisis communications, business-to-business marketing, public affairs and issues management. It has a staff of 40 and fee income of more than \$5 million (£3 million), and its clients include Exxon Chemical, Dresser Industries and Shell. The terms of the deal were not disclosed. Churchill will become part of Bates Advertising US.

BICC loses contract

BICC shares fell 15½p to 124p after the troubled cabling company said it has lost its contract to supply metallic and optical cables to Telstra, the Australian phone company. The company has been supplying Telstra for the past three years, but lost out to Pirelli, the Italian tyre-to-cable company in last month's retendering process. The contract had previously brought in sales of about £25 million. It intends to compensate by making more cost savings in its newly restructured Australia division.

Gall to get full listing

GALL THOMSON, a 13-man outfit that sub-contracts the manufacture of oilpipe parts, will become the smallest-staffed company on London's official list next month. The company owns the patent to a calibrating device that links underwater metal hoses and farms out all its production work. It made a pre-tax profit of £2.74 million (£2.07 million) in the year to March 31 and paid a dividend of 1.5p (1.25p). Its shares, which joined AIM two years ago at 65p, added 5p to 60½p yesterday — capitalising the company at £18.8 million.

MTV in radio venture

MTV EUROPE, the music television channel carried by cable and satellite operators, has created a radio production joint venture with Unique Broadcasting. The venture, MTV Radio Productions, will provide tailored programming to radio stations across Europe. MTV said: "Our ability to produce original programming with exclusive live performances and interviews from the world's best-known performers puts us in an extraordinarily strong position." The venture would be well placed to provide programming for digital radio, MTV said.

Records broken at GE

GENERAL ELECTRIC, the industrial group, reported record sales after becoming the first US company to exceed \$300 billion in market value. Second-quarter revenues rose 14 per cent to \$25.1 billion while profits increase 13 per cent to \$2.45 billion. The company's operating profit margin, a measure of efficiency, was 18.1 per cent of sales, up from 17.1 per cent a year ago. Margins were boosted in part by GE's Six Sigma productivity program, which gives executives incentives to eliminate mistakes and cut costs. (Bloomberg)

Pension fund trustees may face ethics quiz

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

TRUSTEES of UK pension funds could be forced to disclose whether they consider the ethical and social implications of their investments, under a proposal being considered by the Government.

John Denham, Pensions Minister, is thinking of changing pension regulations to require trustees to define their attitude to ethical investment in their

statement of investment principles.

Such a change would be a massive boost to the growing band of ethical investors who typically reject companies involved in military production, environmental pollution and animal testing. At the moment just £2 billion is invested in ethical funds compared with £830 billion held in occupational company schemes.

Russian oil flooding markets

By CARL MORTSHED

A SURGE in Russian oil exports is adding to the glut on world markets. According to the International Energy Agency, they reached 3.1 million barrels per day in June as oil companies chased foreign currency to pay their tax bills.

In each of the three months to June, Russian crude oil production fell as oil companies reacted to weak prices by reducing maintenance activity, the IEA said.

Exports are soaring because the Russian Government is increasing pressure on oil companies to pay tax. Only 10-20 per cent of domestic oil sales generate cash payments. The IEA said: "Exports are the only means for Russian oil companies to earn hard currency, even if the profit margins are negligible."

Stocks held by Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development countries rose to a record 2.6 billion barrels in May. The IEA predicts a slight supply fall as a result of June's production-cutting pact between Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Venezuela.

Lloyd's sends warning to agents

LOYD'S of London has sent a stern memo to agents after complaints that traditional names are being driven out of the market by "black propaganda" (Adam Jones writes).

The traditional names — wealthy individuals who trade with unlimited liability — have complained that agents running insurance syndicates have been using scare tactics to get them to sell underwriting capacity cheaply.

David Gittings, director of the Lloyd's regulatory division, has now written to all agents and advisers, saying agents should not publicly encourage names to leave if the agent is contemplating buying capacity themselves.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.75	2.57
Austria Sch	21.86	20.20
Belgium F	64.59	59.63
Canada \$	2.525	2.337
Cyprus Cyp£	0.915	0.843
Denmark Kr	11.34	11.05
Egypt Pound	5.78	5.15
Finland Mk	9.81	8.89
France F	10.66	9.97
Germany Dm	3.14	2.90
Greece Dr	522	483
Hong Kong \$	13.46	12.26
Iceland	150	110
Ireland P	1.24	1.15
Israel Sh	4.36	4.05
Italy Lira	9109	8972
Japan Yen	244.39	226.80
Korea	1.681	1.522
Netherlands Gld	3.548	3.294
New Zealand \$	3.31	3.07
Norway Kr	13.29	12.31
Portugal Esc	317.29	295.23
S Africa Rd	10.81	9.86
Spain Pta	204.1	194.45
Sweden Kr	14.00	12.90
Switzerland F	2.66	2.45
Turkey Lira	45.015	42.625
USA \$	1.737	1.594

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



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TOLUX S.A. Notice to shareholders

An extraordinary general meeting of Tolux S.A. has been convened for Wednesday 29 July 1998 at 69, route d'Esch, L-1470 Luxembourg commencing at 11.30 am. Details of the resolutions to be proposed at this meeting may be obtained by shareholders from IRG plc, Bourne House, 34 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4TU.

By order of the Board
Q A F Buckland, Director
69 route d'Esch
L-2953 Luxembourg
10 July 1998

مركزنا من الاموال

a to buy largest bus company... transport group formerly known as... n bus company... lifts margins... rig goes to Shell... ica warns rivals... fights gas bloc... ant agrees sale... loses contract... get full listing... in radio venture... ds broken at G...

MPC plays a waiting game



COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

Phew! The Monetary Policy Committee has gone away for another month without adding to industry's difficulties. But the threat of an extra hike in interest rates has not evaporated, as yesterday's rise in sterling testified. The nine members of the MPC reassemble in August and it is not yet safe to discount the possibility of them pushing rates up by another quarter per cent then. Let us hope that the economists and academics who now have sole control of the interest rate lever spend some of their summer holidays in the real world, where manufacturing is struggling and consumer confidence is ebbing away.

From the unrealities of Downing Street, all that Chancellor Gordon Brown can apparently see is a nation intent on over-paying itself. Perhaps major companies should club together and fund a few lobbyists to get across the message that world recession lies ahead and the question is not if, but how hard, Britain will be hit.

But stern Mr Brown is in no mood to sympathise over the potential fallout from the Asian crisis or statistics that show that manufacturing industry has slowed down sufficiently to be recognised as formally in recession. He is unperturbed by the fact that even the service sector is now suffering from the downturn. As if to chastise the MPC for their leniency yesterday, he had another rant against steep salary

rises. The problem for Mr Brown is that in depriving himself of fiscal weapons with which to punish big pay rises, he is left with only the power of oratory and he is certainly living in an unreal world if he thinks that mere exhortation will prevent companies paying the market rate for the talent they need. There are skills shortages. Those who have been late to realise that they may be attacked by the millennium bug will be lucky to find help now and will be forced to pay heavily for their tardiness.

We must wait another six weeks before we learn why, and by what majority, the MPC decided to practise restraint this month. It serves no sensible purpose that there is still a fortnight to go before we are allowed access to the minutes of the June meeting, which produced the unnecessary rise to a 7.5 per cent base rate.

The economic statistics available then painted a sufficiently uncertain picture for action to be deferred. The wisdom of "wait and see" did not appeal to the MPC then. The official data is still inconclusive but at least the hawks on the committee might have been persuaded that they should wait a little while to see

the effect of last month's macho effort. The fact that the increase was largely unexpected and was accompanied by blood-curdling hints that another rise might yet be necessary probably doubled the effect of the quarter-point increase. But if this is a bluff, it has harsh consequences for industry: as long as sterling anticipates another turn of the interest rate screw, exporters will find their task made tougher.

Support your local Dome — or else

Are you in with the in-crowd? Ford is the latest company to decide it would be sensible to drive down to Greenwich and help out with Peter Mandelson's pet project. For the giant US motor company, £12 million may seem a small price to pay for being on good terms with Government, and there could be

some useful marketing exposure as a bonus.

But other companies coming under intensifying pressure to pour money into the Millennium Dome are beginning to be anxious. There is a growing feeling that their refusal to put up the cash may mark them out as uncooperative. The date for opening of the Dome cannot be postponed so the need for the money to be signed up is becoming increasingly pressing. Some companies were early supporters of the cause but, despite the brilliantly orchestrated appearance of the Prime Minister when the contents of the Dome (first draft) were unveiled to a selected audience of businessmen, there is still a huge gap in the funding.

The Millennium Experience's preference for collecting cash in easy to manage units of £12 million is part of the problem. Many commercial organisations have found it hard — impossible — to see how they could get £12

million of value out of being involved with the Dome.

Mr Mandelson and Co must be despairing of the lack of vision some businessmen demonstrate. Surely a bank, for instance, could appreciate the potential to be had from being a Dome backer? Well, not exactly. At mention of the £12 million price tag, most high street names have balked, although they would not like Mr Mandelson to interpret that as a lack of support for his wonderful scheme. The current betting is that Citibank, keen to establish itself in the UK retail banking scene, might be persuaded that it should shovel cash towards southeast London.

But for the companies that have not been convinced of the value of involvement, there is a fear that they may not be top of the list when other opportunities occur to do business with Government. The suggestion earlier this week that Tesco may have been rewarded for its Dome-donation with the quashing of proposals to

tax superstore car-parking is clearly ludicrous. The company had lobbied against the tax but so had other superstore operators and, if it has been abandoned, then all will benefit, including those who are non-Domers. But it is hard to quash the suspicion that the influential Mr Mandelson will take note of who has been supportive — and who has not.

A fair price for Lloyd's names

Traditional names are fighting a rearguard action at Lloyd's of London, their goal to defend the right to underwrite business with unlimited liability — or at least get a good price for being bought out. The signs so far have suggested they are failing on both counts. Corporate capital — money put up by companies and mutual funds — continues to shove aside the country squire because it is cheaper to manage and more predictable. Traditional names pledge their cash for a year at a time only. The auction, set up a few years ago, gave names a way of realising some value for giving up their "squatter's rights" on

syndicates. Previously, they had no way of cashing in if they had to leave a particularly lucrative perch. However, there have been complaints that the prices being offered for capacity are too low.

The stern memo sent to market professionals by the head of regulation at Lloyd's is welcome in this light. It makes it clear that it is not acceptable for agents to scare names into selling cheap, with stories of impending disaster and then buy up their capacity.

The traditional names may be tilting at windmills in their desire to stick with unlimited liability, but they should without exception be given a fair price. If rumours are correct, and Michael Deeny, the formidable head of the Gooda Walker Action Group, becomes the new chair of the Association of Lloyd's Members, they will have a very effective new advocate, too.

Late-night horror

THANKS to its energetic advertising campaign, British investors should now be well aware of just what Nasdaq is and the investment opportunities it offers. But perhaps there should be a new series of the commercials. The recorded conversations between market-rigging traders, which will form the basis of legal charges against 100 Nasdaq traders, would be fine entertainment scattered through late night television.

High bills push water complaints up by 10%

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

COMPLAINTS about water companies jumped 10 per cent last year, according to figures released just days after Ian Byatt, the industry regulator, called for directors' pay to be linked to service standards.

Most of the complaints to customer watchdog groups concerned charges. These have increased as water companies have had to pay for environmental improvements demanded by European directives. Sheila Reiter, chairman of the Ofwat National Consumer Council (ONCC), said: "These figures clearly show that a large number of people are unhappy with the size of their water and sewerage bills."

The ONCC is calling for value for money to be taken into account before future environmental improvements. Mr Byatt is lobbying the Government not to sign up to too many environmental commitments which cannot be paid for by cost savings.

Fine Art chairman in line for £16m over Creative deal

BY FRASER NELSON

KEITH CHAPMAN, chairman of Fine Art Developments, stands to make £16 million from agreeing to sell the newly demerged Creative Publishing to Hallmark, the world's largest greeting card producer, for £188 million.

Hallmark, Britain's second-largest card supplier, yesterday tabled an agreed 233-per-share cash bid for Creative only nine months after the company was spun off from Fine Art. However, shares of Creative jumped 34 per cent to 277p yesterday on speculation that American Greetings, now the third-largest UK player, may make a higher bid than its arch-rival.

Mr Chapman, who has remained non-executive chairman of Creative, said a three-way takeover bid could well emerge even though American Greetings has not made contact.



Chapman: it won't change me

Creative as a perfect fit because for the most part, it makes boxed Christmas cards for retailers. We sell individual cards all year round, so this will not be a slash and burn synergy merger.

Mr Chapman, who started building the company when he was a printer, has an 8.5 per cent stake in both companies. He said that once he accepts the cash he will continue as chairman of Fine Art. He said: "People seem to think I was penniless before this deal. I have had money in paper for a while, and seen its value go up and down. It won't change my lifestyle a bit."

Shares of Fine Art have never returned to their high of five years ago — which has knocked the value of Mr Chapman's holding from £40 million to £13 million. However, he collects about £850,000 in dividend payments. Creative Publishing controls about 17 per cent of the UK market, mainly through Christmas cards, and it has made two acquisitions in the last four months.

Hallmark, a £2 billion family-owned US company, shot to second place in the UK five years ago when it bought the Andrew Brownsword "Forever Friends" range. It now commands just under 14 per cent of the UK market through high-margin birthday, sympathy and apology cards.

Bubbling start for Coca-Cola Beverages

BY FRASER NELSON

COCA-COLA BEVERAGES said yesterday that it will be worth about £1.7 billion on Monday's stock market debut, after a pan-European fundraising that had unexpected demand.

The company, which is the largest soft drink bottler in 13 countries from northern Italy to the Ukraine, has succeeded in placing about £300 million worth of stock being sold by investors in its Australian-listed parent.

The company said the shares will be priced at the top end of their 125p to 160p range when dealings start on Monday morning. This surprised some analysts, who suggested that the City may be put off by the company's plan to sacrifice short-term profitability to build up its position across former Eastern bloc countries.

Coca-Cola Beverages will be listed in both London and Sydney, and will be 50.1 per cent owned by Coca-Cola in Atlanta. The new investors, whose shares will be placed through Warburg Dillon Read, will own about 20 per cent.

Cox in £39m bid to lift underwriting capacity

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

COX INSURANCE, the Lloyd's of London operator, has bid £39.9 million to buy out underwriting capacity from individual members — or names — involved in the famous insurance market.

All the capacity that Cox is attempting to purchase provides capital for syndicates managed by Cox. Currently half the capital in the syndicates is provided by names and half by Cox. If the offer is successful Cox itself could end up providing 80 per cent of the capital backing for the syndicates it is involved with.

Cox is holding a 2-for-13 rights issue to raise £65 million. Funds exceeding that needed for the acquisition will bolster Cox's capital base.

Cox wants to buy a total of £163 million of capacity. This will give it the right to underwrite risks with an annual premium income of £163 million on three syndicates. They are syndicate 218, which underwrites motor risk; syndicate 1485, which underwrites marine and aviation risk; and syndicate 1176 which insures nuclear power stations.

Names are being offered cash or Cox shares in exchange for their rights to underwrite at Lloyd's. Cox's offer to names in syndicate 218 is 20p in cash, or 22p in shares, for every £1 of capacity. On syndicate 1485 the offer is 22p in cash or 24.6p for every £1 of capacity and on syndicate 1176 the offer is 50p

in cash or 50p in Cox shares. The price is determined largely in relation to the profitability of the premiums and the level of risk attached to syndicates.

Thirteen of the 15 members' agents, who act on behalf of names involved, have recommended acceptance. Shares in Cox added 11p yesterday to close at 466p. The rights issue is pitched at 400p.

Capital, a spread vehicle which underwrites and acts as a managing agent, increased pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 from £6.5 million to £8.5 million. The final dividend of 6p makes a total for the year of 7p (6p last time).

BMW to end Rolls deal

BY ADAM JONES

VOLKSWAGEN has a year to develop alternative engines and other components for the Rolls-Royce Silver Seraph and the Bentley Arnage after BMW said yesterday that supplies will cease on July 9 next year.

Throughout the auction of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, BMW threatened to withdraw its parts if another carmaker

won. The Bavarian carmaker has now served notice that it will cancel the supply agreement next summer.

VW is developing an engine to replace the V12 that powers the Silver Seraph and the V8 in the Arnage. It is understood that the components BMW is withdrawing include power-trains, air conditioning units and door electronics.

BMW remains tight-lipped about plans to develop a super-luxury car that would sit at the top of its range.

Daimler-Benz, which is merging with Chrysler of America, is expected to make a decision on whether or not to revive the Maybach brand within the next few weeks.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Telecoms catch a cold as City takes reality check

INVESTMENT trends can change like the weather. Last week investors were clamouring for telecom stocks...



Chris Godsmark, an analyst at Henderson, said: 'The mobile phone share price boom is due for a reality check...'

Orange dropped 36p to 670p amid claims that Hutchison Whampoa, one of its biggest shareholders, was looking to place a large line of stock...

Somerfield was one of the best performers among the FTSE 250 adding 33p, or 8.4 per cent, to 426p...

Elsewhere in the sector, Cable & Wireless led 22p to 803p. JWE Telecom 20p to 215p, and Colt Telecom 82p to 272.62p.

The rest of the equity market gave an initial sigh of relief at the decision of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee to peg rates...

Prices quickly gave up ground in the face of futures selling and opening losses on Wall Street. Down 61.5 points during the afternoon, the FTSE 100 eventually dipped below the 6,000 level...

Recent attempts by Opec member states to boost the oil price by cutting production levels have met with little success. But there is growing hope that the oil industry will enjoy better days before too long.

A weather-related profits warning from El Du Pont de Nemours was responsible for the opening losses in New York and also undermined the likes of rival agrochemicals supplier Zeneca...

come September, and has again taken the opportunity to push his two favourites BP, down 7p to 875p, and Enterprise Oil, unloved at 555p...

The price of North Sea Brent crude for August delivery firmed 15 cents to \$13.27 a barrel yesterday helped by reports that the Government has softened its approach to North Sea revenues...

But the best performance was reserved for Burmah Castrol, up 20p to £11.25 with the help of a 'buy' recommendation from BT Alex Brown, the broker...

A weather-related profits warning from El Du Pont de Nemours was responsible for the opening losses in New York and also undermined the likes of rival agrochemicals supplier Zeneca...

Surgeon Lushoff expects to see a rally in the price of oil come September, and has again taken the opportunity to push his two favourites BP, down 7p to 875p, and Enterprise Oil, unloved at 555p...

being maintained. But DMG was concerned at the amount of money being spent on the promotion of big ticket items. That same survey also depressed J Sainsbury 18p to 530p and Safeway 12p to 382p...

A 'buy' recommendation from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, lifted Anglo Water 13p to 884p. While Debenhams responded to a 'strong buy' recommendation from Morgan Stanley with a rise of 20p to 330p...

Abbey National touched £10.60 before ending 9p dearer at £10.44, while Alliance & Leicester up on 20p to 810p. HSBC James Capel, the broker, is recommending both to clients as a 'buy'...

The decision to peg interest rates was warmly received by the bond market, which managed to claw back much of this week's losses. The best gains were seen at the short end, which is usually more sensitive to interest rate movements...

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt put on £0.60 to £109.15 in turnover that saw 86,000 contracts completed. The short future also rose £0.45 to £103.35 although turnover was restricted to 59 contracts...

Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2021 added 2p to £131.75, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was £7.16 better at £102.32...

At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 30.89 points at 9,144.08.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 9144.08 (-30.89) S&P Composite 1165.92 (-0.46)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 16446.95 (+64.02)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 8433.78 (-195.40)

Amsterdam: AEX Index 1257.58 (-2.24)

Sydney: AD 2788.9 (+14.8)

Frankfurt: DAX 5996.77 (+16.37)

Singapore: Straits 1103.66 (-4.13)

Brussels: General 21742.29 (+135.05)

Paris: CAC-40 4319.18 (-20.78)

Zurich: S&A Gen 1711.90 (-2.50)

London: FT 30 3004.5 (+38.3)

FTSE 100 5994.7 (-30.89)

FTSE 250 5833.3 (+11.3)

FTSE 350 2878.1 (+14.7)

FTSE Europe 100 2983.7 (-14.96)

FTSE All-Share 2982.81 (+12.49)

FTSE Non Financials 2874.42 (+19.94)

FTSE Fixed Interest 143.97 (+0.19)

FTSE Govt Secs 105.38 (+0.34)

RAI Index 691.1m

US\$ 1.6303 (-0.0072)

German Mark 2.9817 (-0.0009)

S&P 500 Index 1054.8 (+0.1)

Bank of England official base rate 4.75%

ECU 1.5088

ESDR 163.5 May (4.2%) Jan 1987-100

NPX 161.3 May (3.2%) Jan 1987-100

RECENT ISSUES

AdVal Group 66p

Advance Dev Mkts 103p

Anglo Siberian Oil 107p

Biocomp Wts 19

British Regal Air 158p

CCM Distribution 11p

City Gourmets 55

Dresdner RCM End 99

Dresdner RCM Inc 90p

Dresdner RCM Zero 100p

ECSTO 237p

Game 130

Interior Services 135

JSB Software Techs 225p

London Town Wts 35

Murray Financial 11p

Policy Master Grp 209p

Quantica 140p

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RIGHTS ISSUES

LEPCO n/p (40) 1p

Marin Int n/p (36) 1p

Oliver Group n/p (25) 1p

Omnicom n/p (60) 17p

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES: Brent Chems 116p (+13p)

500p (+42p)

Somerfield 426p (+33p)

Debenhams 330p (+20p)

Carlton Comm 585p (+11p)

FALLS: BICC 124 (-15p)

Alba 177p (-14p)

Vodafone 778p (-38p)

Stand Chart 665p (-28p)

TI 451p (-18p)

Sainsbury J 530p (-18p)

Prism Rail 435p (-15p)

Photo 342p (-10p)

TEMPUS

A fresh start

Although the company is promising to spend £1 billion making the two chains one and bringing them up to scratch, the money has still to be spent...

Like customers, investors have still to learn how much improvement there will be in the shops. But food retailing is a fast-changing business and what is going to happen in three years time is too far away to worry about...

With pre-tax profit this year expected to reach about £215 million, the shares are on a price/earnings ratio of just over 12 times. The sector is on nearly 19 times. In times of economic uncertainty, such as now, food retailing is attractive anyway...

The shares are a definite buy. Those who do not like the longer term prospects could bail out once they go above 500p.

Complicated, but worth backing.

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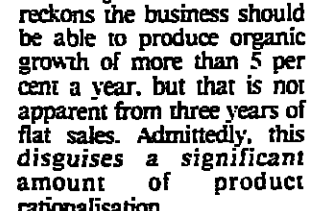
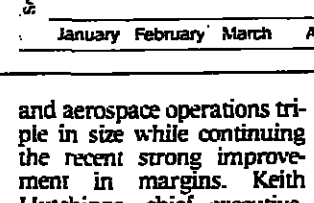
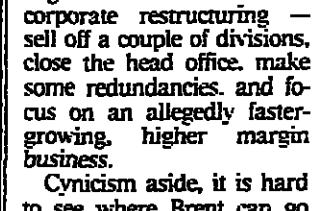
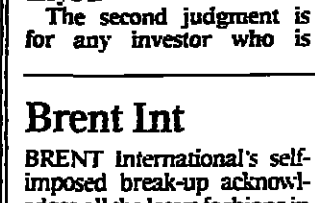
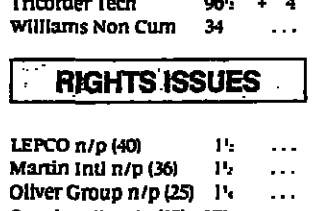
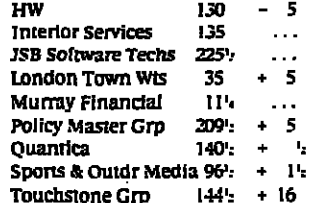
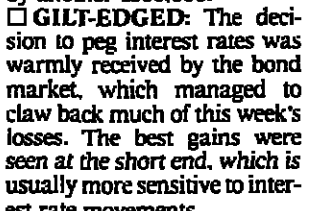
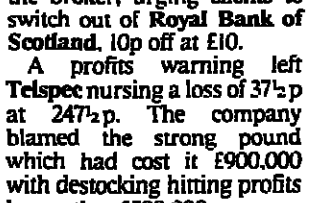
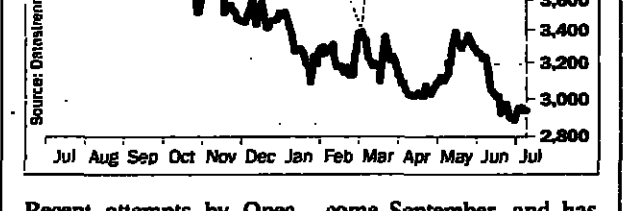
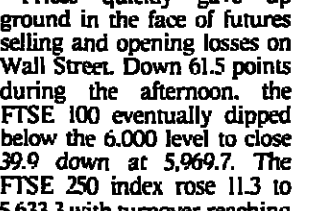
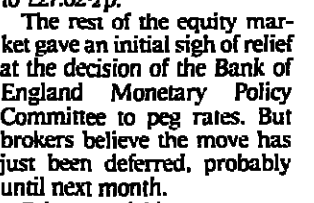
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COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

ROBUSTA COFFEE

WHITE SUGAR

MEAT & LIVESTOCK

COMMODITIES

ICE-OIL (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)

W T East Intermediate (Sep)

W T East Intermediate (Nov)

W T East Intermediate (Dec)

COMMODITIES

GNL LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT

LIFFE BARLEY

LIFFE POTATO

RUBBER

COMMODITIES

LIFFE BIFFEX

LIFFE HIGH LIQ

LIFFE HIGH LIQ

LIFFE HIGH LIQ

LIFFE HIGH LIQ

COMMODITIES

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Gold

Silver

Palladium

Platinum

COMMODITIES

LONG GILT

GERMAN GOVT BOND

ITALIAN GOVT BOND

JAPANESE GOVT BOND

THREE MTH STERLING

THREE MTH EURO

THREE MTH EURO

THREE MTH EURO

THREE MTH EURO

COMMODITIES

OTHER STERLING

Argentine peso

Australian dollar

Bahrian dinar

Chinese yuan

Cypriot pound

Denmark krone

Dracma

Hong Kong dollar

Indonesian rupiah

Israeli sheqel

Japanese yen

Malaysian ringgit

Much business lobbying is fantasy

THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS

If anything positive has come from the row over the Government's relationship with the lobby industry, it is that the normally garrulous lobbyists have finally felt the need to shut up. This is no mean feat for a profession which has turned gossip into its staple commodity, but it seems even lobbyists are not so keen to share tidbits across the dining tables of SW1 when they provide the subject matter of the stories.

While there is about as much sympathy among the general public for lobbyists as there is for lawyers and journalists, business appears to have a grudging respect for the profession. Lobbyists, after all, have merely spotted a gap in the market and at worst indulged in some slightly sharp practice. It is the Government which has created this market for access and in this sense should take the blame for the whole debacle. Labour created the new wave of lobbyists at the black arts of politics in the pre-election days at Millbank and then sending them out into the world ill-equipped to do anything useful. It is not surprising that so many have ended up providing fodder for the lobby industry.

Labour also took the decision to keep much of the machinery of Government within the hands of a few trusted people. While the ambition is simply to maintain tight discipline within Government, the impression created outside Whitehall is that this Government is run by small clique based around the Blair/Brown axis.

Cynics would say governments have always concentrated power in cabals, and lobbyists inevitably seek to exploit these contacts. Certainly, the now-defunct Ian Greer Associates gave the impression that it held the key to access in the last Government. However, it is clear that, rightly or wrongly, many in the corporate sector believe that the concentration of power has got worse under the new Government, making access to exactly the right people even more valuable. The Treasury is regarded as particularly culpable. Some well-briefed City figures have no doubt that everything of importance in the

Department has to pass through Ed Balls. Gordon Brown's policy adviser. If you can't grab a precious ten minutes of his time, they conclude, you might as well forget it.

The Government's assiduous courting of business links has not helped. The big boys — BT, BA, Sainsbury — have all enjoyed visits to Nos 10 and 11. In many cases big-name businessmen — Sir Colin Marshall, Sir Peter Davis et al — have taken high-profile positions on government task forces which provide regular access to ministers. While Labour's attempts to tap into business talent have been generally applauded, it is not too surprising to find companies not in this loop anxious to find

any means possible to put their case.

It would be wrong, however, to lay all of the blame at the feet of the Government. The behaviour of the lobbyists caught in the original sting suggests their clients are probably guilty of a certain amount of gullibility. In the last few days many not entirely flattering terms have been used to describe Derek Draper, the thirty-something former adviser to Peter Mandelson at the centre of the allegations, but "stupid" has never been one of them. The fact that he felt able to make such exaggerated boasts about his contacts, as part of a sales pitch, implies that businesses are all too willing to believe this kind of fantasy. Any business that

gets excited about the delivery of a Select Committee report one day ahead of publication also needs to go on a crash course in UK Government. With all due respect to the many hard-working committees, these reports can hardly be classified as market sensitive.

Business needs to re-evaluate how it uses the lobby firms. Modern lobbying has very little to do with the old-fashioned idea of employing someone to help wine and dine backbenchers and write to constituency MPs. Larger companies, such as Diageo, employ in-house government relations teams to help steer them through the regulatory hurdles and deal directly with Whitehall. They only use the "lobby" firms to provide background work and occasionally some strategy advice.

For smaller companies, of course, this is not financially viable. There are isolated examples of successful lobbying, such as Capital Corporation's employment of Bell Pottinger to challenge the

Budget casino tax increase. In reality, however, as any honest lobbyist (and this is not always an oxymoron) will admit, it is all too easy for government to ride roughshod over the views of small and medium-sized companies. They would almost always be better off using a trade association to put their views to the Government. However, as even Mark Boleat, director general of the Association of British Insurers and a tireless campaigner on behalf of trade associations, admits, too many industries are ill-served by their supposed representatives.

A concerted campaign to improve the quality of trade associations would suit both the Government and business, by creating a more accountable channel of communication. It would also help redress the apparent imbalance of influence between the FTSE 100 giants and smaller companies. Lobby firms would still exist but would clearly be confined to information and advice, rather than seeming to try and sell access — "public consultants" as many lobbyists already prefer to call themselves. And back out of the limelight, where the lobby firms clearly do not belong, the gossip might start to flow once more in Westminster.



ALASDAIR MURRAY

Commercial radio tunes into more profitable future ratings

Chris Ayres finds a sector that is on the right wavelength to prosper



Commercial radio has enjoyed publicity about Chris Evans and his Radio 1 rival Zoe Ball, and attracted Kelvin MacKenzie

Every time the song *Connected* by the Stereo MCs kicks into life, a large chunk of Britain's population automatically begins to think about mobile telephones. They think in particular, of the retail chain Carphone Warehouse, which used the track in a successful radio advertising campaign.

The campaign marked a significant achievement for the commercial radio industry, which now attracts half the nation's listeners. The sheer scale and the widespread public recognition that it has achieved would have been unthinkable at the beginning of the decade.

The rise of the commercial radio industry has, inevitably, been accompanied by frantic deal-making. Most recently Talk Radio has come into play, with Kelvin MacKenzie, the former editor of *The Sun* — who also introduced the world to the news bunnies and topless darts on Live TV — launching a £25 million bid.

It is hardly surprising that the larger-than-life Mr MacKenzie is entering the increasingly high-profile radio industry. It has already attracted figures such as Chris Evans, the boisterous disc jockey and television presenter, who last year paid a staggering £85 million for Richard Branson's Virgin Radio.

Meanwhile, large players with Stock Exchange listings such as Capital Radio and Chrysalis have been taking over local competitors as quickly as regulation will allow. Over the past two months, Capital Radio has paid £10 million for Xfm, the fledgling London alternative rock station, and £18.26 million for Red Dragon, the South Wales radio group.

David Mansfield, chief executive of Capital Radio, said: "I

think commercial radio used to be a medium of last resort — what you did when you couldn't afford to do anything else — but advertisers have discovered that it has its own advantages.

"Radio has now really established itself as an important medium, and all the forecasts show that it will continue to grow for the foreseeable future.

"It's a very intrusive medium: listeners can't edit adverts out like they can in the press."

Commercial radio has undoubtedly benefited from intense press interest. In the red-top tabloids, readers have learnt about the private life of Chris Evans and his chummy relationships with various female celebrities, including Zoe Ball, his Radio 1 rival.

The success of the commercial radio industry, however, has more to do with the determination of the Radio Advertising Bureau (RAB), an organisation set up in the early 1990s, to sell the benefits of the

medium to large corporations. "The industry has done very well to point out the advantages of radio," said Daniel Kerven, an analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

Mr Kerven said that commercial radio has been the fastest-growing display advertising medium for the past five years, and is likely to remain so for the next five. Statistics compiled by RAB underline this. In 1993 advertisers spent just £145 million on radio airtime, compared with £365 million last year. Indeed, it is partly the detailed information provided by RAB that has encouraged advertisers to pour money into the burgeoning sector.

Media buyers have also used sophisticated research technology to woo advertisers. Yvonne Scullion, head of radio at Zenith, the media buying agency, said: "Until recently when you booked radio you had no way

of knowing if you were going to get what you paid for. Now, electronic accounting will tell you if your £500,000 got you the spots you wanted and the listeners you wanted."

Ms Scullion added that radio airtime is significantly cheaper than television airtime, and can often be more effectively targeted at specific groups of people. As commercial radio companies get bigger, their sales departments become larger and more efficient, allowing advertisers to break up their budgets and target different audiences through individual radio stations.

According to industry experts, a 30-second slot during *The Bill* on ITV costs about £3,000, or £6.86 per 1,000 viewers. In comparison, a 30-second slot on Chris Evans's breakfast show costs just £800, or £1.91 per 1,000 listeners. The price difference is just as huge between regional television and radio advertising airtime. A prime time 30-second slot on

Capital FM costs about £3.60 per 1,000 listeners, compared with £11.81 on Carlton TV.

There are, however, questions being raised in the City about how long this growth can last. At least two dark clouds are currently hanging over the industry, in the form of digital technology and government regulation. Sceptics argue that digital radio — which gives consumers better reception and many more stations — will require enormous investment by operators. Others suggest that operators will not be able to gain enough critical mass to deal with this investment without a relaxation of government regulation.

At present all radio licences are allocated points according to how many listeners they can potentially reach. Companies are not allowed to own licences that give them more than 15 per cent of all the points in the system. Many argue that this is unfair and stops the industry consolidating. Executives

BUSINESS LETTERS

Quiet man at Prudential's helm prompts pension questions

From Mr Walter Wright
Sir, As the Prudential is so much in the news these days, may I mention how amazing it is that the chairman of the company, Sir Martin Jacob, is able to distance himself so successfully from the blame for the pensions fiasco. While his troops go over the top under heavy fire, Sir Martin sits, as quiet as a mouse, in his command bunker well behind the lines. Has there ever been a peep out of him?
How many years is it since

Sir Martin famously claimed that insider dealing was "a victimless crime"? Under "leadership" like this, is it surprising that the Prudential salesmen approach their job with more vigour than regard for ethical niceties?
Perhaps the Treasury Select Committee interviewed the wrong man.
Yours faithfully,
WALTER WRIGHT,
188 Court Road,
Orpington,
Kent BR6 0PY.

Another distortion

From Sir Desmond Pitcher
Sir, Your paper on Wednesday added yet another distortion/exaggeration to the catalogue of misrepresenting my service with North West Water and United Utilities.

The statement that "earlier this year he quit the company early with a payoff of more than £900,000" was incorrect. In the company's annual report it is stated that: "Sir Desmond's employment with the company terminated on the 31st March, 1998. The company paid Sir Desmond £443,630 in lieu of notice of termination to which he was entitled under his service agreement."

Neither were we "forced to modify a generous incentive scheme". The scheme in both targets and reward was unchanged.

The implication that Ian McCartney (now Industry Minister) was an agent for change is correct inasmuch as I believe his political circus stunts were a significant stimulation to the incentive which led to extremists fire bombing our home. This caused extensive damage, and, had we been there, probable injury to life and limb.

Yours faithfully,
SIR DESMOND PITCHER,
Onston Hall,
Onston,
Cheshire,
CW8 2RG.

South of the border

From Alan Beith, MP
Sir, Twice in the Business Section of July 1 you refer to Dawson Group's closure of two "Scottish" factories.

In fact one of them is in England, at Berwick-upon-Tweed, where Pringle has been producing knitwear for half a century. I hasten to correct the error in case a minister and agencies which

have responsibility for industrial policy in the North of England fail to notice that it is their job, not that of the Scottish Office, to find ways of helping the local community to deal with the disastrous consequences of losing one of its largest employers.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BEITH, MP
MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.

Dashing duo

NEWS of yet further departures from ING Barings, the Dutch-owned merchant bank which appears to be losing staff faster than you can say Nick Leeson.

Jim Horne and Steve Smith, who worked together in its Independent Valuation Group developing fixed income and equity derivative models (these boys are seriously brainy), have joined the flood of new recruits to Commerzbank's international equities division.

The appointment of the pair in the German firm's London branch as quantitative risk analysts is a clear signal that it

wants to avoid the small local difficulties that have afflicted the likes of UBS and the old NatWest Markets. Indeed, a spokesman says: "Commerzbank now feels more confident about its ability to spot any potential problems."

Mr Horne, a former physics specialist, seems particularly well suited to the job in hand — at Cambridge he was part of Professor Stephen Hawking's black hole research group.

HALLMARK CARDS FOR EVERY OCCASION

SELL UP SOON

CREATIVE PUBLISHING

MISSION statements have always struck me as pointless American-style jargon, so I was disappointed to receive one from that pillar of the UK high street, the Co-op. Its futuristic propounds the number of funerals it carries out, proudly claiming that it continues to hold market share and increase margins despite a continuing decline in the number of deaths. All rather sinister, if you ask me.

Pan plan
DID you know that, if you make it into your seventies, you will have spent about 90 days of your life sitting on the loo? I have been alerted to this

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Shmoozeliner

P&O shares have surged in the wake of a presentation to City analysts last Friday. Not just an ordinary briefing, mind you. This one was held in Barcelona, aboard the *Grand Princess*, the world's largest cruise liner.

A P&O spokesman tells me the trip ended analysts' eyes to the £274 million vessel's sophisticated pleasures, including nine restaurants, five pools and a putting green. Clearly, things have improved since the cancellation of its maiden voyage in May, dashing the holiday plans of thousands of passengers.

Hall of shame

TO the Albert Hall, for the Investment Week Fund Manager of the Year bash, which always throws up interesting winners. In 1996, awards went to Morgan Grenfell and its star fund manager, Peter Young — a month before the biggest scandal in unit trust history. Last year, Mercury Asset Management picked up a gong — days before pulling the launch of a fund after investors stayed away. This time, it was the turn of Robin Evans, manager of Save & Prosper's Growth Fund. S&P's reaction was somewhat muted



DOMINIC WALSH

New Investment Rates

EFFECTIVE FRIDAY 10TH JULY 1998.

90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT ANNUAL INTEREST			90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT MONTHLY INTEREST		
BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA	BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA
£100,000+	7.70%	6.16%	£100,000+	7.44%	5.95%
£50,000+	7.35%	5.88%	£50,000+	7.11%	5.69%
£25,000+	7.00%	5.60%	£25,000+	6.78%	5.43%
£10,000+	6.70%	5.36%	£10,000+	6.50%	5.20%
£5,000+	6.35%	5.08%	£5,000+	6.17%	4.94%

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT			HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT (NO LONGER AVAILABLE)		
BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA	BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA
£100,000+	6.90%	5.52%	£100,000+	4.90%	3.92%
£50,000+	6.80%	5.44%	£50,000+	4.80%	3.84%
£25,000+	6.65%	5.32%	£25,000+	4.65%	3.72%
£10,000+	6.45%	5.16%	£10,000+	4.45%	3.56%
£5,000+	6.25%	5.00%	£5,000+	4.25%	3.40%

TESSA (NO LONGER AVAILABLE)		ASSET TESSA (NO LONGER AVAILABLE)		EXTRA TESSA (FOLLOW UP TESSA) (NO LONGER AVAILABLE)	
BALANCE	GROSS PA	BALANCE	GROSS PA	BALANCE	GROSS PA
£9,000+	7.90%	£9,000+	8.00%	£9,000+	7.90%
£5,000+	7.55%	£5,000+	7.80%	£5,000+	7.55%
£3,000+	7.55%	£3,000+	7.80%		

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Interest is credited or paid at periods in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the Account. *Gross rates of interest are variable and do not take account of deductions of income tax. If you are eligible to receive your interest without deduction of tax, you should register an Inland Revenue Form R85. Interest rates shown as net are purely illustrative and assume tax @ 20%. The actual net amount receivable by an investor who has not registered for gross interest will depend upon the rate of tax as required by legislation in force at the time interest is credited or paid out. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. For individuals whose income falls within the lower band, the tax deducted will match their liability to tax on the interest and they will have no more tax to pay on it. Individuals who are liable at the higher rate of income tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest to cover the difference between the tax deducted and the higher rate tax due. Bristol & West plc is a member of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme and subscribes to the Banking Code, The Mortgage Code, and the ABI Code of Practice. Copies of the Codes are available on request. Bristol & West plc. Registered in England No. 5322011. Registered Office: PO Box 27, Broad Quay, Bristol, BS59 7AX.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, with columns for share price, change, and other financial metrics.

FREE OFFER Discover How You Could Make Serious Money From Penny Shares. Includes text about a free copy of 'Penny Share Guide' and contact information for Financial Times.

FREEPHONE: 0500 823873. Advertisement for a financial service, including contact details and a small logo.

Small table on the right side of the page, likely containing additional unit trust prices or related financial data.

Vertical advertisements on the right margin, including 'CONSTRUCTION' and 'DISTRIBUTORS'.



OPINION
Why Phil Spector may lose millions
THIS PAGE

THE TIMES ARTS

POP
The rise of the 'other' Cherry
PAGE 36

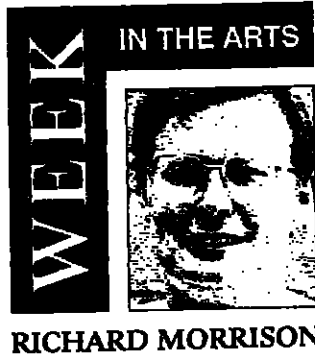


Which Wagner goes best with an AK47?

Oh crikey, I see that it's time for another "radical new way" of marketing classical music. Hold on to your bonnet, granny. Or rather, don't bother. Eight years ago it was the Three Tenors who were going to give classical music a kick up the arse, with their larynx-wobblin', stadium-shakin', ear-splittin', hype-totin' World Cup concert in Rome. Two World Cups later the dear old geriatrics are still belting out the Nessuns and the Dormas to anyone willing to pay their gobsackin' prices. Yet classical CD figures obstinately remain filed in that area of the sales graph between "derisory" and "dire".

dler was set to save classical music with an explosive mixture of sex and Sibelius. Funnily enough, the two didn't quite hit it off. And now? It's Wagner for Gun Freaks time. This month Deutsche Grammophon — once the most respected label in classical music — is going to launch a marketing campaign for its compilation album, *Twilight of the Gods*, that unashamedly aims to sell Wagner's music to the retarded oiks who get a thrill from images of violence. Taking its cue from Francis Ford Coppola's film *Apocalypse Now* (which used Wagner's *Ride of the Valkyries* as background music to a famously nasty bombing raid) DG will buy advertising space in such "specialist" magazines as *Bizarre*, *The Dark Side* and *Combat*. To project the idea that the music of Wagner (or "the W word", as the company nerdishly calls it) is about "death, destruction, power

and conflict" — to quote the company's promotional literature. The album even uses a helicopter gunship attack as its cover image. Very tasteful, don't you think? One's only regret is that a good German firm like Deutsche Grammophon didn't wrap each CD in souvenir photographs of SS Panzer divisions rolling over Belgium. But the lure of violence to sell entertainment is not confined to record companies trying to flog chunks of Wagner to unreconstructed thugs. At the Edinburgh Festival next month will be an American stage show that should appeal to the repressed lager-tout inside all women. It's called *Babes with Blades*, and it's just that: a Chicago theatre company taking us on "an exciting ride through the thrilling world of women and weapons". It seems that the ladies on stage fight with "rapiers, broadswords, knives, sticks and fist-



RICHARD MORRISON

WEEK IN THE ARTS

Blades has received a "wildly enthusiastic response", proving that "the hunger for the woman warrior is widespread". Hand-to-hand combat is apparently the hottest thing in chic feminist circles. Clearly, Deutsche Grammophon has got its marketing all wrong. It isn't thick chaps who are likely to be turned on by blasts of thuggerly Wagner; it's radical, emancipated women. Another landmark triumph on the road to sexual equality!

Meanwhile, connoisseurs of Defining Moments in Pop History will reassemble in a New York courtroom next Monday when one of the great legal battles in showbiz history continues after a short intermission for popcorn and photocalls. Phil Spector, the reclusive Svengali figure *sans pareil* of the 1960s pop world, is being sued by the

Ronettes, the girl group he created and controlled. The case has taken ten years to come to court, but it's been worth the wait. The Ronettes claim that there was a small but significant difference between the royalties they earned for Spector — estimated at \$11 million — and the sum he actually paid them: a single cheque of \$14,000 handed over in 1964. Spector's lawyer counters by claiming that Spector paid them exactly what their written agreement specified. "If you don't get paid," he says. Nice guy. I must try that argument on my plumber. The case is complicated by the fact that Spector was married for nine years to the lead Ronette, Veronica "Ronnie" Spector Greenfield. Spector's lawyer says that Ronnie renounced her claim to royalties in her divorce settlement. But Ronnie told the court that she

agreed to this only because Spector threatened to kill her. Just an ordinary Hollywood marriage, then. Now it's become really personal. Ronnie's cousin Nedra Ross — another former Ronette — blames all the problems on Spector's height, or rather his lack of it. "You heard him refer to himself in there [the court] as 'vertically challenged,'" she told reporters. "I think that because of his height, he tried in other ways to make himself bigger." Somehow, I don't think she's referring to Spector's famed "wall of sound" recording technique. Naturally the case is gripping every pop group and record exec in the world. Pop music has evolved a bit since *Da Doo Ron Ron*. But cases of naive young wannabes signing contracts with wily managers that they will bitterly regret in later years are as common today as in the heyday of the Ronettes. Besides which, the prospect of the unloved Spector having to fork out \$11 million from his capacious wallet to pay off his former wife and her relatives has brought a glint to the eye of many a jaded music-biz veteran.

New Yorkers take a country break

New York. New York. Neil Simon, with Woody Allen, created one of these two New Yorks, the moneyed Jewish one, leaving its violent, poverty-haunted flipside to be established through TV cop series. Simon has remained loyal to his New York through 30 comedies, all set indoors, but now he has crossed the Hudson to give us his first weekend in the country. The opening moments of the play suggest he might have travelled further than the Pocomo Mountains. This lakeside house front designed by Robert Jones, dappled by sunlight — surely it lies in Shakespeare's wood near Athens, for

its three summer residents and their six unexpected visitors find themselves obliged to review their snagged feelings for one another in a healing process of breaking up and making up. With so many relationships to be established, the first act has the feel of a sequence of fragments, but Jones's naturalistic design holds it together. More so, at this point, than Ian Brown's direction. The place proves to be a sort of magic wood and it was when Damien Goodwin's love-stricken, galumphing Ray forgot his escape route through the undergrowth that I became drawn into the spell. Paul Shelley's gently genial Burt is being stalked by heart

plot has not always been the Simon style but the mellower, retrospective tone of this play helps him to manage it. Even Elliot Levey's Mafia princeling has his catalytic function. Josie, who must end resentment of her absent mother, is inspired by the memory of Simon's first wife, whose early death influences the play's tonal quality. But in scenes that never stray too long into the sentimental, a beady watchful Biddy Hodson suggests a character at odds becoming even. This change is the heart of the play, and of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, for that matter.

JEREMY KINGSTON

THEATRE Proposals West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds



Geraldine Fitzgerald (Annie) reflects on the relationships simmering around her in Neil Simon's play *Proposals*

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CHANGING TIMES

Come into a better garden

Where will country-house opera pop up next? Wherever it is, it will be hard to rival the Grange. William Wilkins's massively severe Greek Revival mansion (1809) between Winchester and Basingstoke, set in spectacularly landscaped parkland. The opera is staged in C.R. Cockerel's adjacent Orangery, slightly later and gracefully Ionic. Both buildings are "distressed" to most picturesque effect. The rectangular Orangery would have the look and feel of one of those 18th-century Swedish court theatres, had they not been so lovingly preserved — crumbling plasterwork and reliefs amid which a little 350-seat theatre has been constructed, with seats cannibalised from the old Covent Garden. An instant garden has been created for picnics, and there is a restaurant in the Grange itself. I suspect audiences will be mainly local, since public transport gets you back to London just short of 1am, and there were only six takers. But I daresay people said the same about Glyndebourne in 1936. There was one big surprise: *Figaro* was performed in English, and opera that you can understand is considered rather common; some complaints were overheard. One or two foreign names are usually thought desirable, too, and there were none — this was the sort of cast you might encounter in Leeds. But those present were either laughing uproariously at the lively Jeremy Sams translation or hanging on every word. The audience had a really good time. So it might seem churlish to raise doubts about the per-

OPERA Marriage of Figaro Orangery, Hampshire

formance. Of course there were teething troubles at Wednesday's first night; the cast had not quite got the measure of the intimate auditorium, and sang more loudly than they needed to, at the expense of expression and nuance. Director (Emma Jenkins) and designer (Conor Murphy) had to cope with a stage with neither wings nor flying facilities, and coped with great ingenuity: trapdoors solved the winglessness problem, bizarrely costumed chorus-members changed the minimalist sets. The performance was given in abstract modern dress; the Count looked like one of those upmarket Home Counties gangsters we read about so nervously in the press, and Basilio was a mad Levantine queen — indeed, the whole look of the show was Eastern rather than Western Mediterranean, with Figaro and Susanna far more smartly dressed than their employers. Mary Hegarty was an utterly delicious Susanna, Quentin Hayes a formidable Count, and Nerys Jones a jauntily boyish Cherubino. Elgar Howarth conducted a willing orchestra, sometimes a little too unfeelingly. At this initial venture, the opera was upstaged by the surroundings. When they become equals, Grange Park Opera could be a winner.

RODNEY MILNES

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VISUAL ART

An unc...

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VISUAL ART: Richard Cork enters the surreal world of Japanese artist Mariko Mori



The future is a foreign country: Mariko Mori in one of her seductive yet baffling video installations, in platinum wig and white contact lenses

An unearthly paradise

If Mariko Mori had her way, visitors to the Serpentine Gallery would find themselves levitating in the very first room. A pear-shaped, transparent capsule occupies the centre of the space. It glows with a mysterious luminosity. Iridescent light fills the chamber, making the lotus blossom at its base even more alluring. The overlapping leaves invite us to peer inside, and Mori intends making a version of the capsule large enough to enter. Once inside, she promises that we will float up as if reborn.

In her earlier work, Mori enjoyed setting up piquant clashes between everyday reality and futurology. She posed as a gleaming, semi-robotic creature from the cosmos in a Japanese subway carriage, she includes the egg-like form of the Tucson Biosphere. And the foreground is dominated by a hovering capsule, enclosing the diminutive figures of the artist and her sister

of instruments could easily give the landscape a surreal menace. But Mori appears to see the terrain in a wholly positive light. For good measure, she includes the egg-like form of the Tucson Biosphere. And the foreground is dominated by a hovering capsule, enclosing the diminutive figures of the artist and her sister

that paradise can be achieved, if only we learn how to fuse the spiritual and the material. "In a future civilisation of higher dimensions, with the boundary between mind and matter transcended," she declared in a recent New York lecture, "a triad may be realised as science and religion are fused through art."

Headed sentiments indeed, and Mori has the images to back them up. In *Mirror of Water* she dons a mauve wig and reappears a dozen times in a French cave where stalactites hang over a see-through UFO. The architectural images within this object are likened by the artist to a futuristic tea-ceremony. She delights in taking the most time-hallowed rituals of her native country and giving them a new, space-age identity. Nothing is too sacrosanct for Mori to transform.

The rest of us can only gape and wonder at our mortal limitations

wearing traditional Japanese garments. Mori calls the capsule a "love shelter," and she means it. Another artist might well have seasoned this kind of star-gazing speculation with a dash of irony. But Mori is an absolute believer. True, she introduces cue humour to her vision of *Pure Land*, where Disney-like characters, nicknamed "Tunes" float on clouds over the Dead Sea. But no trace of self-mockery can be detected in the artist's presentation of herself, gliding over a lotus blossom dressed up as the Japanese goddess Kichijoten. She really is convinced

Bites at the ivories

The more successful Thomas Adès is as a composer, the less time this impressive young musician has for playing the piano. But when he is persuaded to perform, in a congenial context, the result is something quite extraordinary. The programme of his morning recital in the Pittville Pump Room at the Cheltenham Festival was extraordinary enough in itself. Representing five composers, it included no fewer than 11 different items or, counting the separate sections of the multi-movement works, as many as 26 pieces in all. And that was without the encores.

It was, in fact, a homage to the miniature. At the same time it was a formidable challenge to the pianist's imagination in ordering fragments into groups to make something significant of each one, and something coherent of them all.

In spite of much rethinking — which necessitated the provision of a printed slip to supplement the programme book and two spoken announcements as well — he

probably failed as far as supplying long-term coherence was concerned. On the other hand, the grouping strategy, extending even to an eccentricity like appending Janáček's one-minute *Reminiscence* to four pieces from Kurtág's *Jatekok*, did succeed in profiling the individuality of tiny inspirations that might otherwise have got lost.

One work that found itself in a particularly advantageous position, on its first performance in this country, was Ligeti's *Etude No 16, For Irina*. Ligeti's structural daring here is breathtaking: in a piece lasting less than four minutes he devotes much of the time to slow-moving rhythmic unisons. Only at the last minute, literally, does he come to the actual point of the study, as he accelerates the tempo, contradicts the metrical pattern and multiplies the rhythms in a brilliant and tantalisingly brief flourish of textural complexity.

Before it and after it was a selection of Janáček miniatures, two of them new to this country. Though of little significance in themselves, they effectively offset Ligeti's many-sided ingenuity through their modest uniformity. Janáček also inspired the most committed playing of the recital in the two more extended items chosen by Adès to conclude each half. If he perhaps failed to see the witty side of Beethoven's *Six Bagatelles*, Op 126, in an oddly overloaded performance at the beginning of the programme, he missed absolutely nothing of the singular sound and emotional torment and exhilaration of Janáček's *In the Mists* at the other end.

GERALD LARNER

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marti Hargie

LONDON
CARMEN: Olga Borodina and José Cura head a select cast in a concert performance of Bizet's final and finest opera. St Colin Davis conducts the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Barbican (0171-638 8891) Sun, 7pm

NIGHT BANQUET/WOLF CLUB
YLLAGE: Chinese traditions and modern Western influences combine in Guo Wuyang's two one-act operas, both concerned with political and social comment, and both sung in Mandarin. The former work, an Almeida Opera commission, receives its world premiere here, with a first British performance for the latter. James Macdonald directs. Almeida Theatre, NT (0171-353 4041) Tonight, 8pm

SUGAR SUGAR: Simon Bent returns to the Scarborough setting of the Best Comedy for a guest house drama, where everyone is preoccupied with sex. Bush, W12 (0181-743 3388), Opens tonight, 7.30pm

SWAN LAKE: Miyako Yoshida and Bruce Sansom dance the leads in tonight's performance of Andrew Lloyd Webber's gloriously sublime Swan Lake for the Royal Ballet. The excellent Russian conductor Valter Fedotkin takes the baton tonight. Cast and conductor change tomorrow. Coliseum (0171-632 8000) Tonight, 7.30pm

WHAT YOU GET AND WHAT YOU EXPECT: British premiere of celebrated French satire by Jean-Marie Besset, where two archaists compete to build the first monument on top of St Paul. Lyric, W6 (0181-741 2311) Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Until August 8

ELSEWHERE
BIRMINGHAM: St Edward Downes conducts the BBC National Symphony Orchestra and Chorus of Wales. Plays by Mendelssohn, Chopin and Liszt. The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh in Verdi's magnificent Requiem. The four soloists are Nena Rauso, Sally Burgess, Denise O'Neill and John Tomlinson. Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333) Tomorrow, 8pm

CHELTENHAM: Old and modern classics continue to rub shoulders at the International Festival of the Impresarios programme this weekend. Concerts by the visiting Cio Giodi, Philippa, the London Sinfonietta, the Nash Ensemble, the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Teodor Currentzis, and the National Youth Orchestra, feature pianists by Truitt, Carter, Benjamin and Elias as well as works by Beethoven, Schubert, Janáček, Tchaikovsky and Brahms. Festival Box Office: (01242 227979)

YORK: The Early Music Festival concludes on a high note this weekend with highlights including a new reconstruction by the Gabrieli Consort and Players under Paul McCreesh, of Masses from St Mark's Venice around 1600 (York Minster, tonight, 8pm). On Sunday a renaissance of Masses from St Mark's Venice around 1600 (York Minster, tonight, 8pm). On Sunday a renaissance of Masses from St Mark's Venice around 1600 (York Minster, tonight, 8pm).

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jersey Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only. Some seats at all prices

THE CURSE OF TITIKAHONCO: The funny movie that never got made, starring Dustin Schwarzenegger, Whoopee Starbuck et al, played as a farcical live radio broadcast. Allen Stone directs. Michael Armstrong's zany creation. New End, NW3 (0171-764 0022)

THE GLASS MENAGERIE: Hedwig and the Angry Inch, the mother, with Mark Burgess and Philip Peak as the smothered children, in Brian Cullis' production. Theatres, W1 (0171-222 2222)

HERAKLES: Memorial production of Euripides' tragedy in the late Kenneth Maclean's translation. Nick Phelan directs. Theatres, W1 (0171-222 0705)

HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE: Pascal Vogler's drama is full of breathless tension as an adolescent girl (Helen Mirren) is seduced by her uncle (John Whitley) while learning to drive. Director: Warwickshire, WC2 (0171-393 1732) 6p

THE ICEMAN COMETH: Kevin Spacey plays Hickey in Howard Davies's strongly cast and magnificent production, transferred from the Almeida to the Lyric. Lyric, W6 (0171-222 7616)

MONSIEUR LOVESTAR AND THE MAIN NEXT DOOR: A literary lion is asked to translate a plumber's 52-page love letter. Hans-Peter Haller directs. Cuban solo Eduardo Merita's engaging two-hander for Zeligfest Theatres. West End, SW1 (0171-739 9183)

SHAKESPEARE'S VILLAINS: Populist bruiser, Steven Berkoff, presents his one-man take on the Bard's darkest characters. Theatres, SW1 (0171-930 8800)

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND: New Lloyd Webber megamusical. Low price tickets but high production values. Singing as sweet and punchy even if the tunes are precariously sweet. Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003)

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the best movies

NEW RELEASES
GURU IN SEVEN (18): Can Sarney beat seven women in seven days? Low-budget British film with satirical overtones, but not enough style to make its points well. With Nini Garcia. Granada. Director: Stuart Gillies.

ROSS OR KILL (18): Fresh Australian treatment of the old story about the outlaw couple on the run, full of unexpected humour and sharp characterisations. Ben Barnes directs. West End, W1 (0171-222 0705)

MAO CITY (15): Broadly enjoyable, old-fashioned tale about mass manipulation, with Dustin Hoffman and John Travolta. Director: Costa Gavras.

MOJO (15): Thugs and rock'n'roll in 1950s SoHo. Small bear for cinema, but a good film. Directed by Jay Roach. Heavily featuring live performances from Van Halen, Bruce Springsteen and Howard Stern.

SLING BLADE (15): Powerful portrait of a mentally disabled man trying to blend into ordinary life after 20 years behind bars for killing his mother. Riveting performance by Jay G. Robinson, who also directs.

TOUCH (15): Unsettling version of Emile Leonard's novel about a man with the haunting gift, played upon by a good cast, though Steve Zahn, Ulrich, Bridget Fonda, Christopher Walken, Paul Schneider directs.

CURRENT
GREASE (PG): John Travolta stars again at Rydell High in this revival of the 1978 movie based on the stage success. Not quite as good as the original, but good fun for pop culture values. With Olivia Newton-John.

KURT & COURTNEY (15): Controversial documentary by Ned Fick. Documenting the lives of rock stars Kurt Cobain and his feisty widow Courtney Love.

LIVE FLESH (18): Pedro Almodóvar's latest, a raucous and absorbing tale about mass manipulation, with Dustin Hoffman and John Travolta. Director: Costa Gavras.

LOVE & DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15): Resolutely weird (John Hurt) tale by American screenwriter John Huston. (Huston) Sophisticated comedy not grown then.

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15): Jennifer Aniston hopes her gay partner will help her bring up her baby. Decent and traditional romantic comedy with a few nice touches. With Jennifer Aniston, Peter Onorati, Nicholas Hytner.

SIX DAYS SEVEN NIGHTS (12): Carlo Carlini plays Hanson Ford in a thriller together on a deserted island with a psychotic magazine editor. Anne Heche. Terrible but loquacious romantic comedy.

ART GALLERIES

ISABEL BAINSTORNE PAINTING THE BALLET 1 to 31 July 1998 National Portrait Gallery 1 St Martin's Lane, SW1 2BE 01464

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POP ALBUMS

A Cherry produces a pip

An Eagle-Eye and the heart of a dove

EAGLE-EYE CHERRY
Desireless
(Polydor 537 226 £15.49)
RAPIDLY shaping up to be one of the most exciting discoveries of the year, Swedish star Eagle-Eye Cherry has taken up residence in the British Top Ten with his irresistible single, *Save Tonight*. Now comes a debut album, *Desireless*, that restates the traditional art of the singer-songwriter with grace and sensitivity.

As the son of the late jazz trumpeter Don Cherry and half-brother of both Neneh Cherry and Titiyo, Eagle-Eye is part of an illustrious musical dynasty, even if, at 27, he has proved to be something of a late developer. But apart from the title track — a trumpet and vocals-led arrangement of one of his father's compositions — he sticks to a conventional acoustic-rock formula with no excursions into the realms of rap and hip hop favoured by his step-sisters.

Sounding not unlike Ben Harper on the comparatively rugged riffing and slide guitar soloing of *Indecision* and the dark, anti-drug song *Shooting Up in Vain* ("He's got a one-way ticket on a derailed train"), Cherry generally sounds more at ease with the folk-troubadour pop of *Rainbow Wings* and *Permanent Tears*. At times he veers uncomfortably close to the kind of anodyne coffee-table rock that you might expect of someone much older. But the idealism of lyrics such as *Worried Eyes* — a duet with Titiyo — and *Conversation*, in which he mulls over painful memories of his relationship with his frequently absent father, lends emotional substance to even the gentlest of songs.

VARIOUS ARTISTS mixed by FATBOY SLIM
On the Floor at the Boutique
(Skint/3MV BRASSIC 9 £14.49)
MORE than just a club, the Big Beat Boutique in Brighton, like the Heavenly Social in London, is the focal point

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NEW POP ALBUMS

for a dance scene that has become a national phenomenon. And of all the "big beat" DJs who perform at the Boutique regularly, none is more revered than Norman Cook, aka Fatboy Slim.

"I never worked a day in my life/I just laid back and let the big beat lead me" is the motto brisily rapped out at the start of *On the Floor at the Boutique*, the cue for Michael Viner's Incredible Bongo Band to come bursting out of the traps with a sensationally cheesy brass and organ version of the old Shadows number, *Apache*.

From there the album unfolds with the urgent and often eccentric bravado of a typical Boutique club set, as Cook deftly splices the sounds of different genres and eras to a succession of deep funk rhythms and staccato breakbeats.

Flashing past in quick and often overlapping succession is an energetic selection of tracks by the Jungle Brothers, Fred Wesley & the Horny Horns, Hardknox, Cut La Roc and many others, before Fatboy Slim's own recent hit *The Rockafeller Skank* brings the proceedings to a close with a suitably exuberant flourish. It is a bold, cleverly-paced collection, as much fun as you can have without leaving your armchair.

LUTRICIA MCNEAL
Lutricia McNeal
(Wildstar WILD5 £15.49)
BORN in Oklahoma, and resident in Sweden until last year, Lutricia McNeal is the singer responsible for *Ain't That Just The Way and Stranded*, an unusually substantial pair of hits that seem to have taken everyone in this country by surprise.

Both songs shine out like beacons on her debut album, a collection of pop, soul, hip hop and house-flavoured numbers which showcase an assured R&B voice, but betray little evidence of original thought, particularly in the lyric department. This is not a bad introduction, but stronger material is needed if she is fully to go the distance.

PAT DINIZIO
Songs and Sounds
(Veitel VEL79706 £14.49)
AS THE singer in faded New York beat combo the Smithereens, Pat Dinizio, 41, has done his time in the bars and juke joints of the East Coast of America, and it sounds like it on his debut solo album, *Songs and Sounds*. "I've been drinking every night since you've been gone," he sings at the start of *A World Apart*, one of several songs that perfectly, and somewhat ironically, recapture the sound which British artists such as Nick Lowe and Graham Parker were making during the London pub-rock boom of the mid-1970s.

But the most pervasive influence on this enjoyable, if determinedly backward-looking, set is that of Elvis Costello, whose nasal tone and abrupt style of phrasing provide the obvious blueprint for the gentle acoustic strumalong *Liza* and the upbeat stomp of *Everyday World*.

With a seasoned yet energetic backing group comprising bass player J.J. Burnel of the Stranglers, drummer Tony "Thunder" Smith of Lou Reed's band and occasional contributions from Sonny Fortune on saxophone and flute, Dinizio confidently asserts his inalienable right to tell it like it is. Full marks for class, even if he has chosen to plough an already well-turned furrow.

DAVID SINCLAIR

ARTS

POP ON TV

Don't kill *The Chart Show*



Eagle-Eye Cherry — son of Don, half-brother of Neneh — comes up with the sensitive singer-songwriter goods on his debut album, *Desireless*

It has no presenters and most of the acts are a bit naff, but *The Chart Show* will be sorely missed

Why I'm set for Saturday mourning

Saturday mornings, 11 to noon, are about to be ruined. Your record collection is about to suffer. Your knowledge of popular music is about to drop. You are approaching a time when you won't know if Bran Van 3000 are playing Leicester De Montfort University on their forthcoming tour, or whether Celine Dion "really enjoyed" working with her producer on her new single. ITV is axing *The Chart Show*. They're denying it at the moment, but "insiders" know that it's coming and that the world is about to fall into rubble and pus.



CAITLIN MORAN

Melody Maker has started a campaign to stop the shutdown, and Q will probably be quite concerned in its next issue — it's the kind of thing Q does get concerned about.

And quite rightly so. Although we are seemingly swimming in a sea choked with music programmes — *The O-Zone*, *Jo Whaley*, *Later With Jools Holland*, the unwatched but nonetheless existent *Pepsi Chart Show* on Channel 5, plus the old and reliable *Top of the Pops* — music television has always been a tricky animal.

That old maxim about those who seek high office being the ones least suited to it is equally true about music television.

presenters. Get the wrong one — Jayne Middlemiss, say; or that bloke from the *Pepsi Chart Show* whom I can only really refer to, disgustedly, as "that bloke" — and people switch off in droves. The royal card in *The Chart Show*'s hand was its heavenly lack of presenter.

The show's ace, however, was the fact that it covered everything. *Later With Jools Holland*, *The O-Zone* and *Jo Whaley* all employ some kind of filter: only the very freshest and best of pop is brought to the viewer's attention. Each act, often each song, is contextualised and explained. Lengthy, dull interviews aid the process of understanding and comprehension — Brian from the

rocked. Yes, it had Del Amitri on every week. Yes, it cared too much about keeping us up to date with the vagaries of Lionel Richie's career. Yes, the *Video Vault* segment only ever showed either a "classic single" from bands who, with freakily regular coincidence, had "Best Of" albums out that week; or b) *Chain Reaction*, by Diana Ross.

Yes, the trick of playing 20-second clips of songs before deciding to either "Play" or "Fast-Forward" has been responsible for many cases of grossly humiliating failed psychics. "I think they will play this one." Pause. "Doh."

And yes, the *Chart Show* Fact Boxes only ever had one fact in them: "We thought the song was a really sunny, 'up' kind of song!" says lead singer Brad Brod. "So when the director suggested Jamaica for

the video we got the right vibes, and a holiday as well!"

But, y'know, it was the chart show. It was the only place you could go that showed you everything. The only programme where you could splatter half-chewed cornflake all over the television set as you happily slagged off six acts in a row. The only music programme since *Top of the Pops* that didn't ghettoise itself into "indie" or "pop" or "rock for thirtysomethings" shows: that put Belle and Sebastian on an equal footing with Robson and Jerome; that pitted Super Furry Animals against Def Leppard; and told the Verve to go away when they tried to insist that the video to *The Drugs Don't Work* should be played in stultifying full.

On Saturdays at 11am (unless it was a Grand Prix

weekend) a stone was lifted, and *The Chart Show* would stir around in the scuffling, seething life underneath with a big stick of randomness. It was a television version of the *NME* — or would have been if *NME* was still a music paper rather than an indie-snob paper — and an hour that you would normally spend semi-comatose, now usefully redeployed to bring you bang up to date with the chorus du jour.

Of course, there is always the chance that *The Chart Show* will get a transfer to Channel 4 or BBC2. In a prime slot, with captions written by Adam and Joe or Eddie Izzard. *The Chart Show* could rival the heyday of *Top of the Pops*. Otherwise I get the feeling we are about to witness the death of a manky old pop warhorse that we all loved very, very much.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 (-) Hello Nasty.....BeeStie Boys (Grand Royal)
- 2 (1) Talk on Corners.....Coms (Atlantic)
- 3 (5) Postcards from Heaven Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
- 4 (6) Life Thru a Lens.....Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
- 5 (2) Five.....Five (RCA)
- 6 (3) Blue.....Simply Red (East West)
- 7 (4) The Good Will Out.....Embrace (Hut)
- 8 (10) International Velvet.....Catalonia (Blanco y Negro)
- 9 (9) Urban Hymns.....Verve (Hut)
- 10 (8) Left of the Middle.....Natalie Imbruglia (RCA)

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© Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

FORGET LIZARDS, GET YOUR CLAWS INTO...

GWYNETH PALTROW
SLIDING DOORS

DOORS STILL OPEN

Heir Miles?

SHIRLEY HORN
I Remember Miles
(Verve 557 199-2)

FAMOUSLY invited personally by the great trumpeter to perform opposite his band at New York's Village Vanguard, singer/pianist Shirley Horn has more right than most to make a tribute album to Miles Davis.

Three tracks — *I Fall in Love too Easily*; *Baby, Won't You Please Come Home* and *Basin Street Blues* — entered the Davis ballad repertoire through Horn, and she recreates her dramatic yet intimate versions of them here.

The other selections — among them achingly slow, heart-on-sleeve visits to *My Funny Valentine* and *Blue in Green*, and an intriguingly funky version of Gershwin's *My Man's Gone Now*, based on the electric outing on *We Want Miles* — are also Davis-related, but since they all receive the unmistakable horn confessional treatment, the album as a whole comes over as an intensely personal statement rather than as a producer's marketing wheeze.

The presence, alongside Horn's regular rhythm section, of trumpeter Roy

JAZZ ALBUMS

Hargrove and Davis band alumni in bassist Ron Carter and drummer Al Foster, doesn't hurt either.

LEON PARKER
Awakening
(Columbia CK 68076)
ALTHOUGH he is still possibly best known in jazz circles as the drummer in Jacky Terrasson's relatively conventional piano trio, Leon Parker reveals a refreshingly unconventional approach on his solo projects — this is his second on Columbia — involving a plethora of percussion instruments in place of the regular kit favoured by his contemporaries.

His subtle but unaffected use of marimba, congas, bells, wood blocks and so on, beguilingly combined with steel pan, flute, floating vocals and occasional saxophone contributions from Steve Wilson, imbue Parker's attractive, airy, instantly memorable melodies with a graceful simplicity increasingly rare in late 1990s jazz: in his case, less is definitely more.

CHRIS PARKER

THE TIMES

MONDAY 30p

See Monday's 30p Times for the complete analysis on Sunday's World Cup final.

The Times. Now only 30p weekday's

http://www.thetimes.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

مركزنا من الأصل

Who sets the news agenda?

Chris Buckland on the hardball inquisitors and sofa shows that have become a political forum

It all used to be so much easier. Until 1996, television worked under the Fourteen-Day Rule, when no subject could be discussed on air if it was even likely to be debated by the House of Commons within the next fortnight.

Those were the days when Harold Macmillan, Prime Minister, would return from some foreign foray to pit his wits against the question: "Is there anything you would care to say, Sir, about the result of your visit?"

He glanced at his Foreign Secretary, Selwyn Lloyd, and informed the grateful nation "No" before climbing into his waiting limousine.

How different it is today, as dozens of radio and television stations clamour for politicians, the grander the better, to fill their airtime and face their abuse.

The Prime Minister has a standing invitation to appear on every British news outlet and a dozen foreign ones, too. Even less celebrated members of the political elite can find themselves tap-dancing from camera to camera and back again.

Alan Duncan, the Conservative health spokesman, sat in front of a microphone last week and performed for eight regional radio news broadcasts in succession, ten minutes at a time. And his reward? About one million listeners.

Programmes that succeed in netting the big fish are victims of jealous accusations that they were chosen because they provide an easy ride — TTN's occasional preferential access to the Prime Minister often faces this gibe.

Two weeks ago an article in *The Times* listed the ministers who were apparently shunning the hardball inquisitors in favour of chat-show hosts.

Four days later the Prime Minister's chief press secretary, Alastair Campbell, wrote to the Editor in typically pugnacious style, deriding two of the programmes mentioned — BBC2's *Newsnight* ("a dwindling audience"), and Radio 4's *The World at One* (which was not to be taken seriously).

That provoked shrieks of outrage from the broadcasting divas.

Newsnight's rottweiler-in-chief, Jeremy Paxman, gave back as good as he got, telling Mr Campbell, in large headlines, that he was talking "C.R.A.P." about falling ratings and scoffing at a minister who had been quoted as asking why he should trapeze all the way to West London so that "Jeremy can persuade the public I'm some sort of criminal". (This was almost identi-

cal to the complaint of a Tory minister before the election, who accused the BBC of treating him like a mass murderer every time he appeared.)

Even though his programme had been more or less exonerated, John Humphrys, the Welsh terrier of *Today*, joined in the following morning, demanding that ministers appear before him in good times and bad, while the much maligned Nick Clarke, of the *World at One*, barked his own protest.

But while Paxman and Clarke suspect they are being punished for being "off message" — the most unforgivable crime in the Labour spin-doctors' lexicon — there is far more to it than that.

When the politicians' minds are deciding who will appear on what programme they, quite naturally, consider the Government's self-interest.

They ask themselves: what do we want to say? What kind of audience do we need to reach? Which is the best programme for getting the right message to the right people?

Of course, some ministers would willingly appear on *Prisoner: Cell Block H* if they thought they could impress Mr Blair and save their political lives in the upcoming reshuffle.

Others would rather bury their heads in reacle than appear on even a hospital radio station when they are deeply in the mire, just as Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, vanished from the airwaves during his period of fame as an interior decorator.

But when the time comes to sell the message, which programmes do the political fixers choose; which are top of the agenda-setting league?

Both Labour and Tories agree that the best workhorse for getting a message across is Radio 4's *Today* programme. Despite claims last November that the Prime Minister had given up listening to it in favour of GMTV, I am told this was a "wind-up" (after all, what minister will appear on a programme unless he has even the faintest hope that the boss will be listening?). No, Mr Blair is as likely to tune in to that dulcet trio of interrupters Humphrys, James Naughtie and Sue MacGregor as anyone else.

However, other ministers are deserting the distended *Today* programme, which has become embarrassingly windy since its recent expansion from two-and-a-quarter to three hours.



On message? From top, Des O'Connor with the Prime Minister, Jeremy Paxman, Jonathan Dimbleby, and Today's James Naughtie and John Humphrys

They prefer Radio Five Live's *Breakfast Programme* which, even though it reaches less than half the audience of its big brother's 4.9 million, they find more relaxed and less aggressive — punning the listeners in a more receptive frame of mind.

Mr Blair's recent appearance on Des O'Connor's show caused a mild burst of apoplexy in John Major. But while the spin-doctors may be reviled, they are no fools whatever the former Tory Prime Minister might think.

They know that Mr O'Connor's invitation to a soft shoe shuffle, like that of the other "sofa shows", reaches the C and D social groups, people more likely than the more upmarket *Today* listeners to change their vote — the very folk who deserted Labour for Margaret Thatcher and came home to Tony Blair at last year's May election.

When it comes to the serious talk shows the audience fig-

ures matter little, except among the handful of TV and press political editors and other politicians. So *Breakfast with Frost* may be watched by only 900,000 viewers, but his interviews are picked up by every radio and TV bulletin.

Frost was, for example, deliberately chosen for the recent joint interview with President Clinton and Mr Blair because "the timing is perfect and he's a guy who will let you get your message out".

Paxman's *Newsnight* may have 200,000 more viewers than Frost, but he is at the wrong end of the day — too late for the next day's papers and too early for the morning programmes, which have their own politicians to fry.

With *Question Time* sinking fast, *Panorama* more of a magazine, and John Humphrys's other programme, Sunday lunchtime's *On the Record*, reserved for when Mr Blair or other ministers feel a good mauling will

win them public sympathy, it leaves *Sky News*, scores of regional TV news programmes (local programmes are trusted more), phone-ins (effective recently in Northern Ireland) breakfast TV, and

Jimmy Young (one of the toughest interviewers of all) and a growing host of other hungry mouths to feed and media careers to save.

No wonder our politicians feel they are in a seller's

market. When it comes to individual programmes they can almost be as dismissive as Winston Churchill was of TV as a whole when he asked: "Why do we need this peep show?"

Irish eyes on Monty

Carol Midgley reports on an unlikely takeover

When David Montgomery, the chief executive of the Mirror Group, announced this week that he had bought the *Derry Journal*, the irony was not lost on its staff.

Mr Montgomery is an Ulster Protestant, while the *Derry Journal* is one of Northern Ireland's leading nationalist newspapers, serving Londonderry's Catholics since 1972.

The Mirror Group was quick to insist, however, that the £18.25 million deal would not change the political stance of the newspaper. "It is a highly successful business," it said. "It would be commercial suicide to change it and we have no desire to do so."

Aides further point out that Monty, who has gained a reputation as a staunch Unionist, has been lauded of late for helping to push forward the Northern Ireland peace process. At a Labour Party dinner in May, Tony Blair commended his "courageous stance" on Irish issues.

The Unionist Belfast *News Letter*, which the Mirror Group acquired in 1996, has taken a softer line in the past two years and even called for the British Government to apologise to the Catholic community for Bloody Sunday. Last year Mr Montgomery refused to attend a meeting of Unionists seeking an alternative to the peace process. The Ulsterman said he backed Downing Street's plan.

"Monty gets frustrated that people are so black and white about Northern Ireland and cast him as diehard Unionist", says a friend. "It is much more complex to him. The family were Church of Ireland Protestants but there is Celtic-Irish blood somewhere in there as well."

Friends also point out that *The Mirror*, which many predicted would change its political stance under Montgomery's leadership, remains Labour supporting, although they concede it initially lost much of its left-wing fire.

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THE TIMES

DAY

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330 weekdays

Off Targett at The Observer

The key media question betwixt Labour's lobbyists sleaze is how it will affect "shocking" splits at the top of the paper — between titular editor Will Hutton and his deputy Jocelyn Targett. Plans for *The Observer's* redesign as a "no news" paper in September, with sport and news downgraded inside a life-style wrapper, has been spearheaded by Targett. This project is well advanced, with a mock-up version now being researched with focus groups. But will the revamp happen? Grave concerns had already surfaced, and this week's events have reinforced the Guardian Media Group's belief that there is nothing like a great story to raise the profile, and sales, of a failing newspaper.

Meanwhile, some of the paper's most senior journalists have approached Alan Rusbridger, the editor-in-chief, to try to halt the relaunch and to point out how young stars such as Marie Woolf are leaving (in her case, for the *Independent on Sunday*). Meanwhile, Lucy Heller, sister of *The Sunday Times* writer Zoe, brought in by Rusbridger as general manager, is trying to sort out the mess. Hutton finally made an appearance on TV on Wednesday night. He'd taken time off to fly to Brazil, where his book *The State We're In* was being published. The initial belief was that he'd handed the paper to Targett. But floor to Targett's appearances have been surprisingly poor. *The Observer* stumbled over whether or not it had tapes of Roger Little (since when have journalists needed tapes to



Maggie Brown's MEDIA DIARY

studio to meet the guests. A witness says Boyle had the look of an executioner — Melvyn Bragg's ousting this week came as no surprise. But who replaces him? Since the BBC agrees it needs a politically impartial host, Nick Clarke, the presenter of *The World at One*, may

prove their stories?) allowing Downing Street to take the early PR initiative. Then Rusbridger took charge, and has swung *The Guardian* behind *The Observer*. The message: we're family and we stick together. Meanwhile, a meeting of the Scott Trust, which appoints editors, takes place at the end of this month. Hutton has delayed his holiday for it.

It is uncertain how long Derek Draper would have kept his column on *The Express* anyway. He was hired by former editor Richard Addis, and the new Rosie Boycott team, which had to deal with his copy, had early discovered that he enjoyed no special protection from Lord Hollick, the proprietor.

Two weeks ago James Boyle, controller of Radio 4 visited the *Start the Week*

suit. If he's too busy, James Naughtie might do. Also in the frame is Jeremy Paxman. Meanwhile, Channel 4 looks unlikely to recommission *The Sundays*, its review of the papers, in its present form with Bragg as chairman. Decisions are on hold while executive Steve Hewlett is on holiday.

The BBC may rue its decision to exile top news programmes to White City. Kelvin Mackenzie, likely new chief executive of Talk Radio thinks so. He plans to use its location in Oxford Street to organise face-to-face verbal confrontations with politicians in front of shoppers. It's one answer to Radio 5 Live, which reinforced its hold on sport by snapping up the Scottish Premier League rights.

Brian Park, the soap producer who revived *Coronation Street* by kicking out garden gnomes and introducing the Battersby "family from hell", is a hard act to follow. He's leaving for the saner world of drama series, but Granada is still searching for a successor. Park drove up ratings, fixed the problem of extra Sunday night episodes, fired the old guard — and has left a successor with the pressure to maintain momentum as audiences for soaps are weakening. Any volunteers?

Street wise: the Battersby girls helped refresh the soap



EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

WIN A CLASSIC FERRARI 328 GTB

The leaderboard after the French Grand Prix appears below with two teams belonging to A Malakis, of St Albans, sharing first position in the race to win a classic Ferrari 328 GTB or a trip to either the 1999 Australian or Monaco Grands Prix. His teams, Team 4 and Team 19, both scored 884 points at Magny Cours to bring their total points to 6,710. Ms C Sayle from Ramsey, Isle of Man, wins a trip for two to Sunday's British Grand Prix. You can change up to four selections before the Austrian Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday July 23. Check your score after the French race by calling 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK).

POS	TEAM	MANAGER	POINTS
1	Team 4	A Malakis	6710
1	Team 19	A Malakis	6710
3	Team 16	A Malakis	6695
4	Turbo Wilko	P Wilkinson	6694
5	Team Thomas	R Finn	6672
6	Team Malory	T Haeley	6667
7	Macher Bros 4	M Eiern	6665
8	O Danny Boys 2	D Hornsby	6662
9	Ferrari F1	B Ferguson	6650
10	System Link	N Roy	6644
11	Alphaomega	J Goldsmith	6641
12	Head Banger	R Heed	6637
13	Hannah's Spanners	D Scrogg	6637
14	Burner F1	J Brown	6630
15	Blue Eagles	P Adamson	6628
15	Archi-Sparki	R Bullen	6626

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

ALCATEL CABLE HOLDINGS LTD (ON MEMBERSHIP VOLUNTARILY LIQUIDATION) COMPANY NUMBER 02046300

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: On 29 June 1998 the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Martin Stephens of 10 Old St, 1, Coventry Street, London EC2A 3DF, was appointed Liquidator of the company. The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to section 84(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that the meeting of the company must be held on 29 July 1998 at 10 Old St, 1, Coventry Street, London EC2A 3DF at 10.00 am. The Liquidator also gives notice pursuant to section 84(3) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that any creditor of the company who has a claim against the company must submit a statement of their claim to the Liquidator on or before 29 July 1998. The Liquidator also gives notice pursuant to section 84(4) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that any creditor of the company who has a claim against the company must submit a statement of their claim to the Liquidator on or before 29 July 1998.

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the said creditors to be heard by the Company Court pursuant to section 84(4) of the Insolvency Act 1986 must do so on or before 29 July 1998 at 10.00 am at 10 Old St, 1, Coventry Street, London EC2A 3DF.

29 June 1998
M. Stephens, Liquidator

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 24th day of June 1998 presented to the High Court of Justice for the winding up of the said company on the grounds that the company is unable to pay its debts as they fall due. The Petition is now on for hearing on the 27th day of July 1998 at 10.00 am at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2PL.

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CHRIS HARRIS

'You can sit on the sidelines — or fight'

Soon after joining the BBC, David Docherty stood before a large wallchart which gave a geographical breakdown of where the licence fee comes from. Two thirds of it, he pointed out to watching executives, is from working-class viewers and from outside London and the South East.

Docherty, a former researcher and academic, then pulled off a strip of paper which covered one final fact. It was that the BBC gets .0001 of a penny from television executives living in London's Notting Hill. The executives, particularly those who lived in Notting Hill, giggled nervously.

"What I don't like is people making programmes for themselves, because it's public money and they bloody well shouldn't be doing it. If you are taking money from people living in high-rises in Newcastle, you have responsibility to give something back to them," he says.

Docherty, whose father died when he was 14, comes from "a stoney broke" background in Glasgow. He is about to give something back to licence-payers on a grander scale, perhaps than anyone in BBC history — provided they have enough money to buy a digital set-top decoder, or pay for a cable subscription.

As Deputy Director of Television in BBC Broadcast, the corporation's commissioning arm, Docherty has been responsible for launching the new digital television services. Subscription services such as Style and Arena have already been launched with partners under the UKTV banner.

Now five services, plus a digital text service, are available without extra charge to licence-payers. The new "free" services include News 24, the round-the-clock TV news programme which has been on cable since last year; *BBC Choice*, which will provide extra programmes to complement the existing TV schedule, plus another chance to see some of the week's best programmes; a learning channel to be launched next spring; and BBC 1 and BBC 2 broadcast in digital widescreen format. In addition,

Raymond Snoddy meets David Docherty, the man who is launching the BBC into the digital future

tion, the BBC Internet site is already one of the top websites in Europe.

For Docherty, it is all about giving the BBC a central role in a 200-channel digital future. In September there will be an integrated consumer launch for the new channels which, with related digital technology, will consume about 10 per cent of the licence fee over the next five years — close to £1 billion. Before the launch, there will be a "softening up" barrage, which began this week with newspaper ads aimed at sceptics of the digital revolution.

Naturally, Docherty has few doubts and believes the financial commitment to digital is in proportion. "There is already 60 per cent public awareness of digital and people quickly get the idea. They use digital cameras and digital compact discs and they know digital means better quality sound and more choice," says Docherty, who has spent the past three years on the package of new channels.

Unlike ITV, the BBC is, controversially, paying to be part of BSkyB's digital satellite package to ensure that its channels are universally available on all three digital "platforms" — the ways of receiving digital services. The BBC has the right to its own capacity for digital terrestrial television and its new channels will be carried on digital cable networks.

"We are pioneering digital and it's not about being first for its own sake. It's saying there is an uncharted territory out there and we think it is good for the licence-payer that we go there and spend roughly 10 per cent of the licence fee on it," says Docherty.

But is it right that so much of the licence fee should be spent on what will be a tiny percentage of digital viewers — at least at the outset? "That was true of the introduction of colour and BBC 2," replies Docherty. He believes that apart from the extra channels the more consistent picture quality, better sound and widescreen will be perceived as "an extraordinarily high value" by viewers. "I think genuinely it will be one of those things like colour TV. You see it at your neighbour's house and you say 'I'd like one of those,'" he says.

He believes the "clinch" will be the TV set replacement market in the UK. Every year about three million new sets are bought, and Docherty hopes that a high proportion of consumers will see no sense in buying an "old-fashioned" analogue set when widescreen digital is available.

"That takes you to 10-14 million pretty quickly, within five years," he says. Ultimately, he believes, it is a policy issue for the Government when the existing analogue signal is switched off and the frequencies auctioned off for mobile communications, leaving the country entirely dependent on digital broadcasts.

But how did 41-year-old Docherty, a student until the age of 27 after taking degrees in sociology, social philosophy and international politics, who has never made a television programme in his life, become a senior executive at the BBC? He worked for the Broadcasting Research Unit and wrote books on the history of London Weekend Television, Channel 4 and the state of cinema audiences in the UK, before joining the BBC in a strategy role after a brief stint as research director of the Broadcasting Standards Council.



"You can sit on the sidelines and criticise, or you can get in and fight for the things you believe in," says Docherty, who was influenced by BBC series such as *Paths to Freedom* and *Civilisation* when growing up. The chance to launch more channels than anyone else in BBC history — under the supervision of his boss Alan Yentob — came partly by accident.

"There weren't many volunteers three years ago. Not many people were interested in the future and I think they [BBC management] believed I could combine longer-term thinking with shorter-term delivery of these channels," he says. Docherty has had to fight to establish himself. There was the difficulty of his lack of a programming background but he points out that Michael Grade, the former Channel 4 chief executive, never made programmes either.

"There is no monopoly in caring about talent and how it is delivered to the screen," he adds. Docherty has also not been amused by being criticised in the BBC as a mere number-cruncher. He is more of an argument-cruncher, whose academic studies have helped to protect him in combat with the BBC bureaucracy. He also writes novels at the weekend. His first, *The Spirit Death*, will be published soon by Simon & Schuster.

Docherty's most central belief is in the BBC as a civilising agent in society, although he hopes that when people look at the corporation in five years they will find "an organisation committed to us, on our side, trying to serve rather than dominate, and that the edges of arrogance will have gone".

The digital launches, he believes, are an essential part of reaching that target. "The Government is willing broadcasters to go digital and we genuinely believe it will take us closer to the licence-payer, and, therefore, we embrace it willingly," he says.

"We think that the world of convergence [of broadcasting, computers and telecommunications] is on the near, rather than the far, horizon."



David Docherty: his mission is to give the BBC a central role in a 200-channel digital future

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Plain truths from Body Shop

The Body Shop has a startling strategy — being honest with women. Anjana Ahuja reports

The beauty industry thrives on promising the impossible. Strip away the promises, however, and there isn't much left to peddle. Yet this is exactly what The Body Shop plans to do. The company is launching a strongly worded campaign designed, it claims, to expose the tyranny of the beauty industry and to encourage women to feel comfortable with themselves, irrespective of their age or size.

Bravely, the company also makes the radical admission that its products will not change lives. It refuses to portray the images of perfection conventionally promoted by its competitors. Instead it is opting for the anti-sell of realism. From tomorrow, posters will appear in Body Shop windows bearing the message: *There are 3 billion women who don't look like supermodels and only 8 who do.* The figurehead for the campaign is red-haired Ruby, a voluptuous pink plastic doll with love handles created by design agency HOST International. A lifesize Ruby will tour the country to spread the word.

Customers will also be encouraged to take home a copy of *Full Voice*, an in-store magazine short on beauty tips but big on arty shots of large women, and inspirational slogans (*inner strength... control a woman's body and you control a woman's mind*). In a final flourish, Anita Roddick, the founder of The Body Shop, sets out her philosophy: "... we do not lie to women... we try to expose the stereotypes that make so many women feel they'd be better off shutting up, going on a diet and having a facelift..."

The magazine also makes the kind of promises you won't see anywhere else: "The Body Shop products won't change your life. They won't make you more popular... Does this help to sell our moisturisers? Probably not... We want to change how you feel about the way you look. If we can help you feel good, then we have given you something you can't buy. A sample of self-esteem." It's a laudable effort. But isn't The Body Shop in the business of selling beauty products? And will customers really want to buy from a company which believes in celebrating cellulite, wrinkles and bad-hair days? And surely, however right-on The Body Shop likes to be, this bid for

attention is nothing more than an alternative marketing strategy? Sue Tibbells, the company's women's affairs campaigner, is predictably earnest. "The campaign is an honest attempt to spread a message that there is no one beauty ideal, she insists; whether or not the company sells more facial scrubs is neither here nor there."

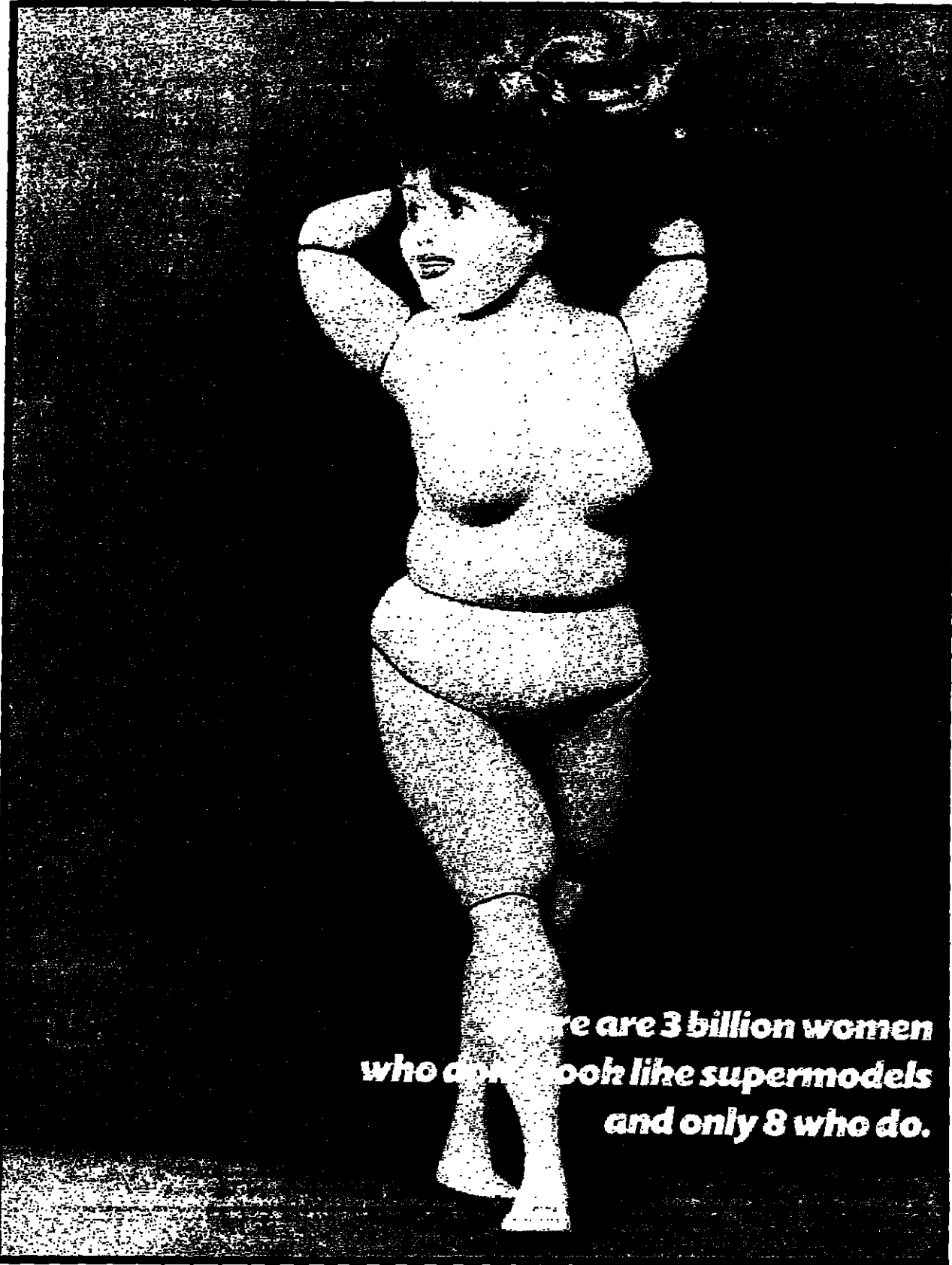
"Body Shop has never marketed its products by saying they will make you look prettier or better, unlike other companies, which play on women's insecurities," Ms Tibbells says. "We prefer to think of our products as tools of self-expression. And we use employees, not supermodels, on our promotional material."

There is no right size or wrong size for a woman

Nor is the campaign about being anti-thin or pro-fat. "It's about attitude, about saying there is no right size or wrong size. We sponsored some research showing that, while women are looking at fashion magazines, their confidence drops. Why are so

many healthy and beautiful women struggling to accept themselves? We are just saying to the beauty industry — let's break out of these stereotypes." And as far as the fashion industry is concerned, why should clothes look best on a 6ft, six-stone model? Supermodels actually look very strange in the flesh, because they are extraordinarily tall and thin. Fashion photography is about the setting and the clothes — I am sure if you put a size 14, 40-year-old in the right setting and the right clothes, they would look beautiful, too."

The struggle to break the mould of conventional beauty already has some heroines, namely the alluring, size-14 Sophie Dahl and Sara Morrison, who featured in *Vogue*. However, while Sophie can trade on her striking face, novelty value and exotic lineage, larger models continue to languish. But Alexandra Shulman, Editor of *Vogue*, says that, despite the "incredible interest" in the Sara Morrison pictures, there are no permanent plans to feature larger models: "Sample clothes are made in size 10. Some models are size 12, because size 12 on a 6ft model is still thin. I don't think, at the end of the day, that readers want to see fat women. There is an element of fantasy and aspiration about fashion mag-



There are 3 billion women who don't look like supermodels and only 8 who do.

Getting real with Ruby: The Body Shop uses a well-rounded pink plastic doll to help promote its latest campaign

azines, and women don't want to open the pages and see themselves. They don't want to see skinny models either." So, as an awareness campaign, The Body Shop's may not have much effect. But as a marketing ploy? "Well, it's good publicity, isn't it?" says Shulman. Her view is echoed by Wendie Stone from the advertising agency TBWA GGT Simons Palmer. The agency is familiar with how sensitive the issue of body image is — it

created the controversial Acourist advertisement featuring a skeletal model with the strapline *Put Some Weight On*. The ad drew many complaints although, Ms Stone says, its message was that being underweight is not cool. "The Body Shop campaign is a positive step to get women to feel good about their bodies but probably won't matter a great deal in the real world," Ms Stone says. "The important thing is, it will generate a lot of PR for the company."

New Labour, soft soap

SOAP operas and politicians have never been comfortable bedfellows. Anyone who recalls Tony Blair falling over his image-makers to demand the release of Deirdre Rachtel from prison, or Baroness Thatcher knocking back

beware from experience that politics are better off keeping a respectful distance from soaps. Last year the obliging Brookside again helped Labour when David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, appealed for help in promoting his £50-million literacy campaign. Brookie chose Jimmy Corkhill, ex-jailbird and general ne'er do well, to bluff his way onto a teacher training course with faked qualifications. (The message being



that it's never too late to better yourself. But guess what? The Teacher Training Agency was up in arms. The profession was being given a bad name. Honestly, there is no pleasing some people.

So far most soaps have had the good sense to stay out of the Government's subliminal message sending. *Coronation Street* and *EastEnders* rejected Mr Blunkett's entreaties last year, asserting their plots were "character, not issued". Quite apart from the fact there is something creepily Orwellian about the State making art do its propaganda work, the device actually ruins the pleasure for soap fans seeking escapism. (No Mick Johnson, we do not want to hear about the Ofsted report.)

And there may be more to come. A recent report by Ed Straw, the chairman of Relate and brother of Jack Straw, urged scriptwriters to include "positive examples of families working through their problems". This proves only one thing: Mr Straw and his colleagues cannot be real soap fans. If so, they would know that watching dysfunctional families tear each other lives apart is one of the soap addict's chief pleasures. It makes our own lives seem so much bearable, you see.

Does self esteem come in a pot?

Discover the secret of eternal youth with JOIE by L'ORÉAL PARIS.

Fiction and fact: The Body Shop pledges it won't make impossible promises to its customers

IN 1997, Price Waterhouse Entertainment Media & Communications forecast that the future of communications was satellite. A survey from I.D. Power and Associates, released yesterday, claims that consumers are increasingly turning to cable operators to provide them with both television and telephone services. It was generally agreed in the industry, however, that cable would not flourish without a substantial degree of consolidation between cable companies. So, over the past few years, the cable industry has done just that.

The number of large companies in the UK has fallen from nine in 1995 to three at present (Telewest Communications, Ca-

ble & Wireless Communications and NTL). At the same time, cable share of the pay-TV market has increased steadily from 18 per cent in 1992 to 28 per cent in 1995, and reaching 39 per cent in the latest BARB estimates for June 1998.

Cable now reaches about 2.5 million homes and 5 million individuals in the UK; a 15 per cent rise since September 1997. However the number of homes connected (those receiving a cable service) falls well behind the number of homes with the potential to receive cable (homes passed), which stands at 11.3 million and rising.

The battle for pay-TV viewers between cable and satellite operators is soon to be fought on digital ground. Merrill Lynch predicts that there will be 4.7 million BSkyB homes by 2002, and 5.0 million cable homes. British Digital Broadcasting is expected to reach 1.9 million subscribers by 2002.

Preparing for the emergence of digital television, Cable & Wireless this week announced the acquisition of Twi Way TV, a company which specialises in interactive technology. Accordingly, Sky is winding up to its major digital launch this summer.

MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed on the Internet at <http://www.mediatel.co.uk> (telephone: 0171-439 7575)

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MORE VAUXHALL TEAM CHECK NUMBERS WILL BE BROADCAST TOMORROW

Sun

So who needs Viagra?

Sex may not win awards, but does it sell cars, asks Stefano Hatfield

For some, it will be the moment when we see the husband's bottom rise and fall atop his prostrate wife, for others it will be an overhead shot of her naked thighs beckoning through the extreme slit of her skirt — or perhaps the bit where she grips the sand in ecstasy will do it for many. One thing's for sure, there will be complaints about the new Peugeot 306 commercial.

The fourth in the series of commercials featuring couples getting excitable over a 306 is the sexiest yet. The last featuring a little boy's parents stop the kitchen table while their small son hollered for them in bed was raunchy enough, but it still managed to hold back — just a little.

The latest ad features a woman talking to her friend who is filled with wonder at her sex life.

"It must be the oysters!" they exclaim in jest, before the wife/mother character recalls a story of a trip to the seaside for oysters, which inevitably turns into a love-making session in the sand.

That's it really. All you need to know anyway. The strategy is to present the thoroughly unremarkable 306 as a sex-aid for thirtysomething couples who haven't let having children stop them having fun. Who needs Viagra when you've got a 306?

Sex is hardly an original strategy. Think of Gold Blend or, perhaps more appropriately, Häagen-Dazs, and we've only just got over the fust of the Claudia Schiffer Citroën ad, for instance. But what's different about the 306 is the consistency with which the sex angle is attached to the brand's marketing.

Like both the 206's *Thelma and Louise* series and the 406's dream scenarios, Peugeot's agency, Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper, has managed to produce campaignable ideas that win it few friends in the awards-obsessed ad industry, but are popular and memorable where it matters — among consumers.

Raunchy as it is, it's still all firmly tongue-in-cheek, and tame stuff compared with the editorial comment around it and on the BBC — particularly when compared with new series such as *Big Women* and *Jogger's Face*.

The 306 campaign doesn't have the



Passion thriller: critics may loathe it, but the raunchy Peugeot 306 ad is proving popular with consumers

cleverness and originality of Volkswagen's ads, but what does? Peugeot's advertising is clearly finding the target. It currently enjoys more than 8 per cent of the UK market — its best ever share, and the 306 itself, up against fierce competition from the likes of Golf, Escort and Megane, is the sixth best-selling car in the UK.

Apparently a £19 million ad campaign is set to break in America promoting the virtues of Viagra. It seems a ridiculously unnecessary task at a time when the wonder-drug continues to enjoy the kind of free on-message editorial coverage that other products can only dream of.

But with worries about the cost of the pill surfacing here, it's clear that prospective long-term users have a cheaper alternative already available: the Peugeot 306 (from around £11,000).

One by one our favourite advertising turkeys are disappearing from the TV screen: no sooner has the RAC ditched its appalling ads about the future of the planet, and gone back to

reminding us it rescues breakdowns too, then Visa finally lays to rest the much ridiculed Mel Smith "kerrching" campaign along with the debit card it promoted. The terrible new Nescafé ad seems to have disappeared from sight, despite having extra footage mixed in to make it more palatable.

And, at this stage it's not even clear whether the Ambassador will be serving Ferrero Rocher at his party in the run-up to Christmas. But have no fear, the ad industry seems to have an inexhaustible supply.

Have you seen the inimitable Jack Charlton hamming it up in a Kerrygold cheese commercial that uses up more Irish clichés than an average episode of *EastEnders*? Jonathan Ross in the new over-complicated "Sure commercial" has to be seen to be believed. With his Pizza Hut ad back on air, has he become the new Joanna Lumley/Harry Enfield?

How about the dreadful new patronising Boots commercial, which uses the irritating zoom technique (like 1,001 other ads currently) in a vain attempt to hide just how painful its

excruciatingly punny endline "love Boots" is? My current personal favourite still remains the Ford Ka ad. Despite being re-edited (like Nescafé) it is still utterly incomprehensible and pretentious, and still leading in the race both for 1998's "most gratuitous use of a football scenario" and *The Times*'s advertising turkey of the year awards.

We're a funny lot. No sooner have Ince and Batty missed their penalties, than all sorts of stories start up linking them with Pizza Hut in the manner of our previous penalty-missers: Southgate, Pearce and Waddle.

Pausing only to note that it would be bizarre for Pizza Hut to wish to continue to associate itself with losers, the one thing I am certain of is that the Italians' penalty-misser, Di Biagio, will not be seen in ads making jokes about what happened. He'd be too ashamed, and no client could get away with using him without massive public outcry. Here we turn our honourable failures into stars.

Stefano Hatfield is Editor of Campaign.

'I'm not nobbling the bastards at the BBC'

Richard Eyre is worried about the BBC's drift away from public service, says Michael Leapman

Richard Eyre, the chief executive of ITV Network Centre, believes the BBC is drifting away from its original lofty purpose towards crude commercialism, and he wants something done about it. Yesterday he submitted a report to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, suggesting ways of restraining his principal competitor.

No surprises there, then. Except that Eyre is desperately anxious that we should not leap to the obvious conclusion that the report is simply an attempt to curb the Beeb so as to lift ITV's share of viewing. "We're trying to say that the licence-funded BBC is an extraordinarily beneficial institution... this report is written under an umbrella of admiration for its importance," he says. "But we're concerned that some of the activities of the BBC... may make it more difficult to preserve that foundation stone. It's important they don't succumb to market pressure and lose the high ground."

The ITV document, *The BBC's Public Service Obligations and Commercial Activities*, accuses the BBC of trying to maximise its audience share by aggressive scheduling of its most popular programmes, taking advantage of being less rigorously regulated than ITV.

In the past decade the BBC has greatly expanded its commercial ventures in books, videos and programme deals with overseas broadcasters, becoming more commercially aware. Some in commercial TV have argued that, because the BBC is increasingly operating like one of them, it should be reformed in one of two ways. Either it should be made to go the whole hog, abandon the licence fee and start to sell advertising, or it should drop all of its most popular programmes and concentrate on serving minority interests.

But the ITV report rejects both those radical solutions. "The BBC should retain its universality of appeal," it states. However, it continues, "as the publicly funded broadcaster, the BBC incurs no commercial risk. Its primary role should therefore be to provide programmes that the market fails to provide..."

Eyre believes the BBC should stop worrying about audience share at any given time and concentrate on giving nearly every licence-payer something to watch some of the time. "For instance, where we've tried to schedule new comedy or something like that, the BBC has shifted its schedule to put its really big guns opposite our comedy. What's the benefit to the BBC in doing that? If it were really about

the BBC is unhampered by any such rules.

On Budget Day the BBC took advantage of its two channels by covering the Budget on BBC2. ITV had no such option, leaving BBC1 to win the mass audience. The BBC's tie-up with the National Lottery would not be allowed under ITV rules that demand separation of editorial from commercial input.

The report suggests that such anomalies could be avoided if all British television services, including the BBC, were regulated by a single external body. "By relying predominantly on self-regulation," says the report, "the BBC has too much leeway to exploit inadequate content and commercial regulatory frameworks, enabling it to gain audience share and market advantage at the expense of other broadcasters. This will make it less able to resist the weakening of its public-service ethos and will expose the licence fee to challenge in the digital era of multichannel choice."

ITV has chosen this time to make the case to Mr Smith because the Government is working on a position paper on the subject of Europe-wide TV regulation in the digital age. The BBC's Charter is due to be renewed in 2002, and some believe the licence-funding system may be scrapped at that stage.

Eyre explains: "The last thing we're suggesting is that the BBC shouldn't be a broadcaster of attractive programmes... it needs to be doing something for every man. But, unless it moves away from the sector occupied by the commercial stations, how can it argue in defence of its current funding?"

He paused, then tried another, more anguished question: "Do you believe me that this isn't just an attempt to nobble the bastards?"



Eyre: critical of the BBC

fostering new talent and innovation, squashing it on other channels wouldn't be part of its remit."

To strengthen the point, the report analyses the output of the BBC during two weeks, comparing it with the Yorkshire and Central ITV stations. The figures show that the ITV stations screened more arts, drama, news, factual, regional and children's programmes over the period. While ITV licence regulations lay down a minimum number of hours for these programme categories,

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Summer offensive

Oxford and Cambridge are using holiday schools to broaden their student base, says Victoria Fletcher

Record numbers of bright state school pupils have attended summer schools at Britain's leading universities this week, as part of the expanding drive to persuade more to apply.

Nottingham, Bristol and Cambridge have mirrored the initiative started by Oxford last year to try to "demystify" their universities for students in the state sector. But the success of this, the latest access campaign to sweep institutions sometimes criticised as being toffs' universities, is only just emerging.

Last July, Oxford invited 64 comprehensive schools to pick their best pupil to attend a course in chemistry, history, modern languages or physics. For one week, sixth-formers from schools that had never sent a pupil to Oxford were given a taste of university life. They lived in a college, visited facilities and attended lectures. They were also offered guidance on how to survive the interview obstacle course, a technique that independent schools annually use for their candidates for Oxford and Cambridge colleges.

Figures just released show that the strike rate of the scheme was about one in four. Of the 64 pupils, 42 per cent went on to apply for a place, and of them, more than 50 per cent were eventually accepted. Although the numbers may seem low, considering the elite target audience of the scheme, Oxford thought it a preliminary success and decided to expand it.

So this year the summer schools are bigger than ever. Oxford has taken 120 pupils, and added mathematics and Classics to its subjects. Learning from its mistakes of last year that students considered the trips too boring, it has jazzed them up with drama, a visit to a student radio station, and more free time to enthuse and appease their exhausted A-level pupils. The Sutton

Foundation, an organisation that funds the summer school project, has branched out to Nottingham, Bristol and Cambridge with similar packages.

The vigour of the campaign has not been totally spontaneous. Research shows that although independent schools take only 9 per cent of British pupils, almost half of Oxford students are from those schools and for the past eight years this ratio has remained almost stable.

In spite of Oxford's many initiatives to attract more pupils from state schools, applications from the state sector have actually fallen, from 4,475 in 1994 to 4,249 in 1997, while those from independent school students have increased by similar proportions.

As well as creating a good public image, the summer schools are bound to become part of a long-term strategy for the university.

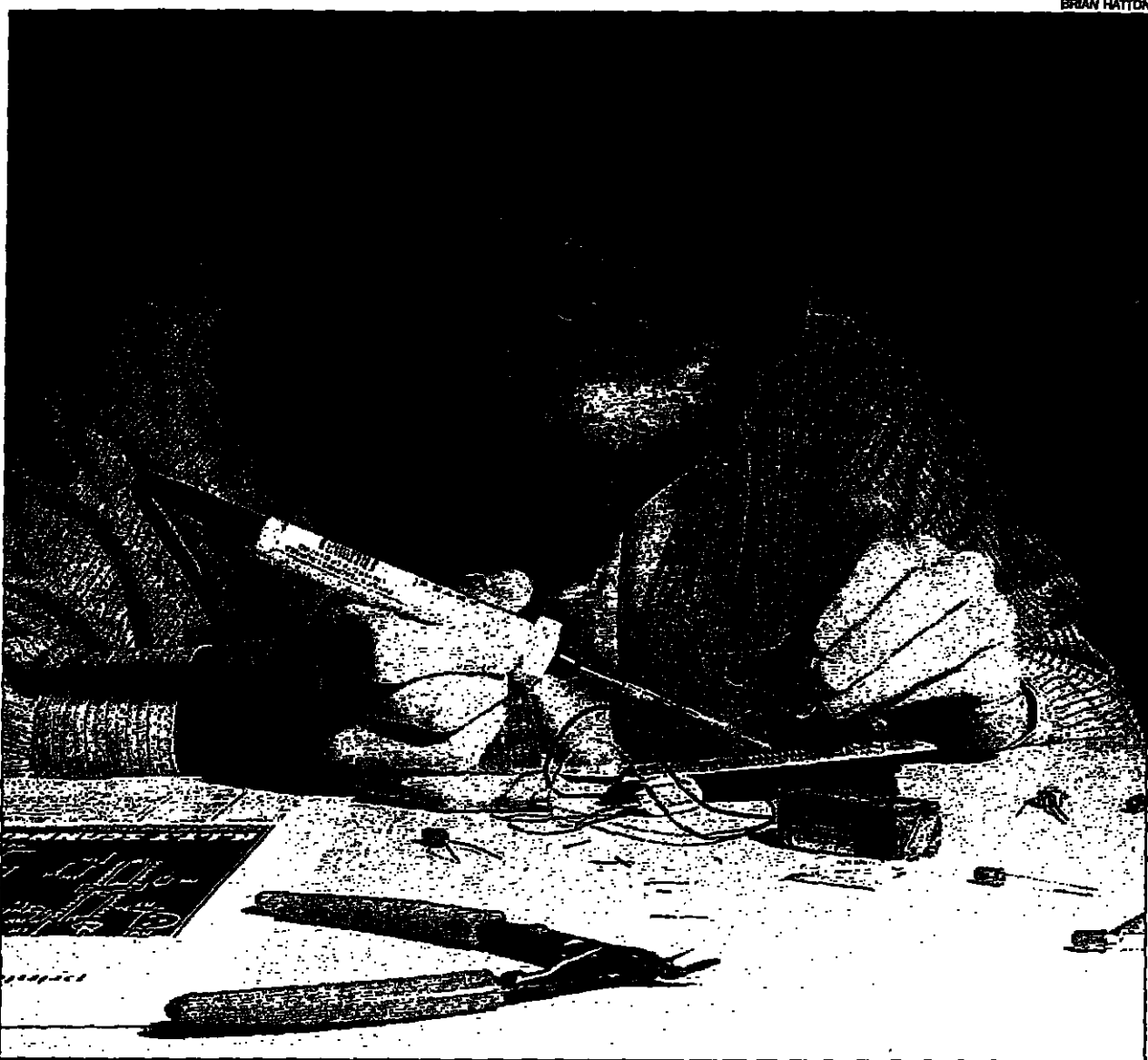
Peter Lampl, a former student who set up the Sutton Foundation, hopes that eventually Oxford will attract more than 1,000 state school pupils a year to its summer schools.

He says: "It is an exciting new development based on the system used for the Ivy League universities in America to create access. If we could get 1,000 pupils, this would then really make a difference because the figures show that if one in four obtained places, numbers would increase by 250 a year."

Jane Minto, the head of admissions for Oxford University, offers a more tentative approach. "We hope eventually to keep the number of children per week about the same but to expand the number of week-long courses we run," she says.

"There are many more pupils that we would like to be here. At present schools that are not picked to send a pupil can have a visit arranged, but until the project expands, little more can be done."

The learning curve is two-way during the week. Oxford



Aaron Moore, one of the students invited to find out whether he would like to apply for a place at the university

has realised that many pupils are dissuaded from applying because their parents, friends and often teachers are prejudiced against the university.

In response, this year — for the first time — teachers are also being targeted. Fifty English, physics and geography teachers from state schools around the country have been listening to the opinions of educational experts on the future of higher education, as well as having the opportunities and entrance policy of the university explained.

But, ultimately, the hardest consumers to convince are the sixth-formers themselves. The highly articulate, animated and confident pupils on this year's scheme considered that the visit had changed their opinion of Oxford. Life in the college, they now thought, was fun, although at times a bit restrictive. And they were amazed by the high-tech equipment available to students.

Although their image of Oxford as "snobbish" had changed, the pupils were aware that the atmosphere of

the summer school was artificial. One week with pupils from the same background as a special guest was not, they said, a reflection of normal term-time life.

Rebecca Smith, 17, from Southwell Minster School in Nottingham, says: "It gives you a chance to see the colleges as less fortress-like and to look inside. And the teachers are very down to earth."

Keith Hughes, 17, from Woolston Sixth Form in Warrington is less convinced, however. "The opportunities are

good," he said. "But the colleges are all separate, and there isn't one central area. When other students arrive it may not be as friendly. The town is too small and I still feel that I would fit in better somewhere else."

While the new summer school is still in its infant stage, it has nonetheless encouraged some pupils, giving them the confidence to apply to Oxford. And the remaining sceptics have at least gained the courage to turn round and say "No thanks".

Lords in revolt over 'unfair' Scots fees

Row threatens chaos in university financing, writes John O'Leary

Introducing university tuition fees were easy, the late Lord Joseph would have done it almost 20 years ago. The present administration made sure not to repeat his mistake by squaring public opinion, but apparently unnoticed details are still delaying the legislation.

The current obstacle is the decision to waive a year's fees for students from Scotland and other parts of the European Union if they are taking four-year degrees at Scottish universities, while requiring full payment from those from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The "Scottish anomaly" has aroused such strong feelings in the Lords that on Tuesday the Government suffered its biggest defeat since 1913.

On Monday MPs will doubtless reassert their authority when the Lords' amendment is debated, but the Upper House seems in no mood to capitulate in what has become a constitutional question.

The argument must be settled this month if universities are to issue bills before the start of term. Without that, higher education finances will be in chaos, whatever the outcome of next week's spending review.

There is precious little room for compromise. Ministers have insisted that if they waive a year's fees for students at Scottish universities, they will have to do the same for those taking four-year degrees elsewhere, at a cost of £27 million instead of £2 million. The alternative would be the creation of a different anomaly which Lord Sewell, leading for the

Government, described as "gross and intolerable".

This line of argument might have been more convincing if it had been used by ministers when the dispute began two months ago. Then, it was said that the new arrangements assumed that English students would join the second year of degrees if they wanted to study in Scotland. Very few do so.

Opponents in the Lords, who have narrowed their amendment to ensure that only Scottish courses are affected, think that the present anomaly is the more indefensible. Although only 354 students joined Scottish universities from the Continent last year, they cannot see the logic of better treatment "for Umbria than Cumbria".

The argument may have moved beyond mere logic, however. Lurking in the background are allegations of inter-departmental rivalry and even class envy. The Scottish Office is said to have acted unilaterally to protect universities north of the border, fearing a flight from their traditional four-year degrees if students had to pay the full fees. John Home Robertson, the MP for East Lothian, raised the high proportion of independent school pupils among English students in Scotland, accusing peers of protecting their own interests.

However, the National Union of Students is threatening a test case under the European Convention on Human Rights. Andrew Pakes, the president, says: "It cannot possibly be right to charge students different fees according to where they live in the UK."

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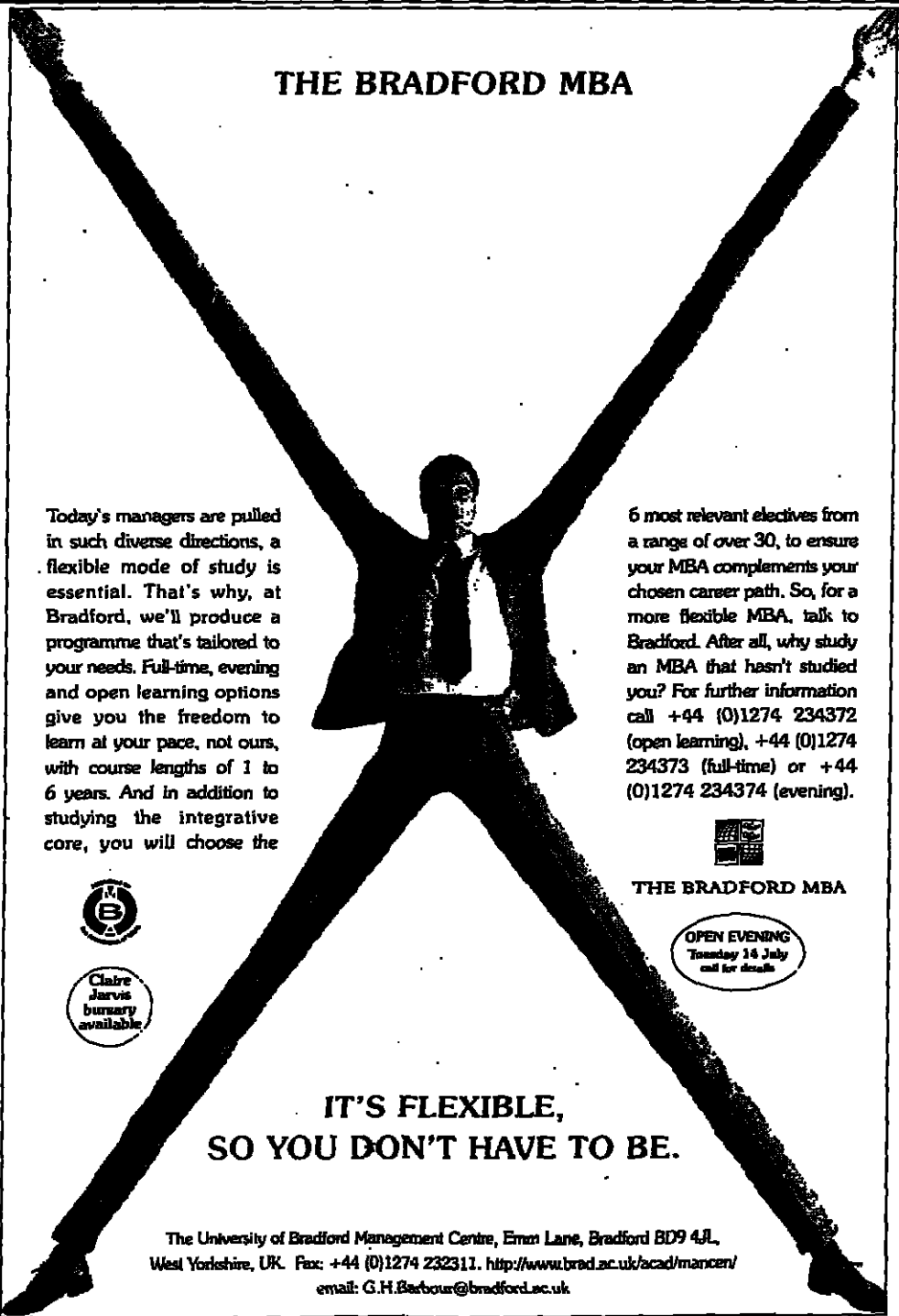
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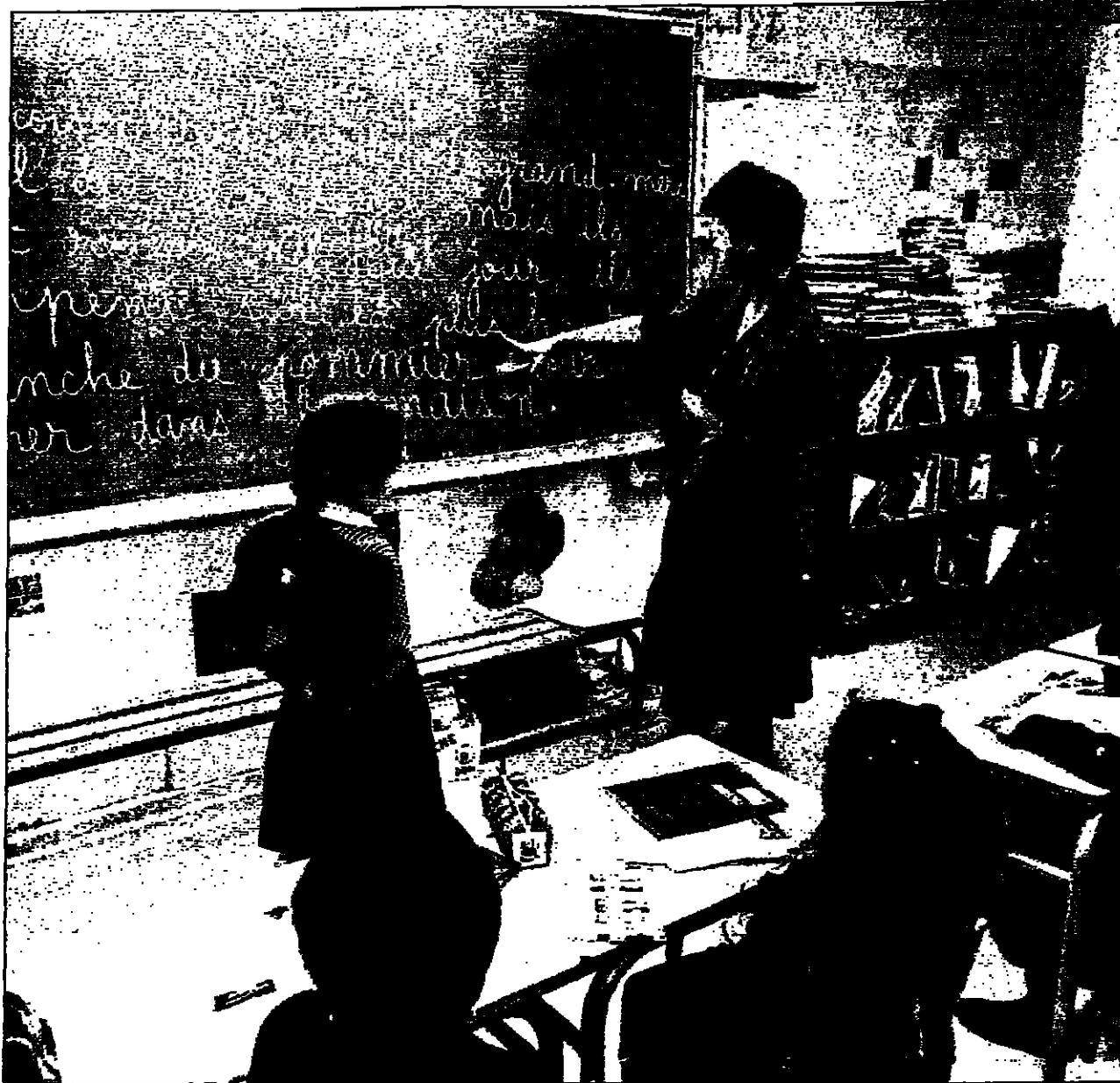
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Prêt à parler in two tongues

French and English boarders at a Kent school converse easily in each other's languages, says Susan Elkin



French connection: "Children learn languages like breathing," says the chairman of governors at Northbourne Park

A national inquiry into British capability — or the lack of it — in foreign languages is to be launched next week by the Nuffield Foundation. Schools' performance will be at the heart of a report that is likely to make uncomfortable reading some time next year.

There are examples of outstanding language teaching to be found, however. Trevor McDonald, the newscaster, and Sir John Boyd, Britain's former Ambassador to Japan, who are to co-chair the inquiry, could do worse than pay a visit to Northbourne Park, a preparatory school in Kent, to see what can be done.

Twenty-five French children, aged 11 and 12, are being educated as boarders, along with about 200 young Britons at Northbourne Park, near Deal, in Kent. They study the fifth and sixth years of the French national curriculum in French for about half their time. This ensures that they pass the annual *examens de passage*, ready for return to the appropriate level in a French school after their one or two years in Kent. The remainder of their timetable is fully integrated with the rest of the school's, including geography and PE, in French. More than three quarters of Northbourne's staff are competent French speakers and several are French nationals.

Children and staff alike seem blissfully unaware of which language they are

speaking, so effortlessly do they slide from one to the other. Some assembly notices are given out in French and there are French announcements after the formal lunch that staff and pupils eat together. Many signs around the school are in French. I missed *attention la marche* as I stumbled down the step into the classroom of Andrew Davies, the registrar and head of French.

Patrick Papougnot is the housemaster responsible for all the boarders. When he arrived seven years ago he had no experience of English boarding school traditions and was refreshingly free of fixed ideas. "I came from an academically brilliant Paris day school," he says. "But in France teachers just teach their subjects; the child-pastoral dimension has been fabulous to discover. I love it."

His wife, Sophie, teaches in the pre-prep school. She plays in French with the three-year-olds, introducing water, sand, playhouse and dressing-up vocabulary, as well as singing with them. "Our youngest children probably know more French songs than English ones," says Barbara Pimblett, the head of pre-prep.

I watched Mme Papougnot teach Year 1, aged 5 and 6, as she does every day for half an hour. They were "doing" food and were able to tell their teacher in whole sentences and good accents that their *nourriture préférée*. "J'aime le lait," one small boy said. "Moi

aussi. J'adore le lait," responded Mme Papougnot.

Park School was founded in 1936 by Lord Northbourne and housed in the family's attractively eccentric Victorian manor house. The present Lady Northbourne is the chairman of governors. A diplomat's daughter and a native French speaker — and fluent in three other languages — she believes "children speak languages like breathing."

The school's French connection stemmed from her personal contacts in France. Earlier this year she was awarded L'Ordre National de Merit by the French Government for her education work.

Northbourne Park is closer to France than to London. French boarders, such as Florence Blazy, 11, or Antoine Ga-

naud, 13, go home for a weekend every two to four weeks. Most of them are enthusiastic about the daily sports and several spoke of the joys of Latin.

Laurent de Montalembert, 12, is now back in Paris, but his younger brother, Charles, will start at Northbourne soon. Easily able to speak English to a stranger on the phone, he says: "There's a special ambience at Northbourne, with French and English children mixing well." Laurent also waxes lyrical about "le cricket," whose rules he is proud to have mastered. His mother, Brigitte de Montalembert, says the Northbourne experience has become a family tradition; her brothers and sisters-in-law have sent their children, too.

But does it benefit the English children? "Yes," says Fergal Roche, the head master. "All our leavers have good French. Some are more fluent than I am and I've worked at it since I was a child."

Parents sometimes worry that if, say, geography is taught in French, then the child will lose out on content because of a language barrier. They need not. I listened, fascinated, as M Papougnot taught a geography class in his native tongue, watching every child for comprehension, doubling back, repeating. Nobody was allowed not to understand, yet the lesson was surging ahead.

"Learning another language and the genuine exchange of culture makes children more receptive to other learning," says Mr Roche. "And it makes

them more confident."

The scholarships won by pupils at Charterhouse, Winchester and other schools are testament to Northbourne's academic success. "In recent years," Mr Roche says, "our results in the Kent tests for those who want to transfer into local grammar schools at 11, and in common entrance at 13, have gone up and up. So have our national curriculum test levels, but we have always been academically non-selective, and have several children with special needs."

If, as work at Northbourne seems to suggest, a radical approach to language teaching and cultural integration can raise standards across the board, then surely other schools should take *une feuille* from Northbourne's *cahier*.

Chris Barton offers some hints on giving an inaugural lecture

Forget the stand-up — just deliver

Nobody prepares you for your inaugural lecture when you finally become a professor. Doubtless it is a condition of appointment, and you suspect your enemies are flying in with their fingers crossed.

At least you have a choice of weapons, so pick a title that sounds intriguing but in fact requires the least possible work. Then read it all through beforehand for timing, and remember that the fundamentals still apply: nobody's going to be sorry when you've finished. Try it out on someone and rehearse the handover with the warm-up person, hoping they don't relate some scabrous incident from your junior lecturership days.

Don't panic when they all go po-faced at the start — they are trying to look as if they are concentrating. Find a nodder, get in sync and away you go. And this isn't the time to make your debut as a stand-up comedian, or to start experimenting with the overhead projector.

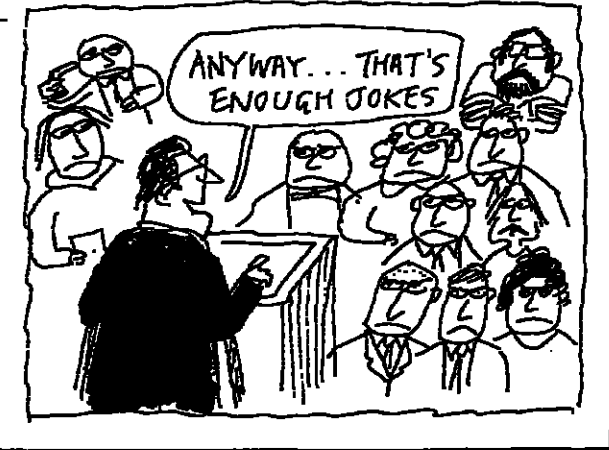
Do remember which part of the audience you want to please, which you want to annoy and which doesn't matter. Out there is the payroll vote (who have come only so they will be seen by the vice-chancellor), your colleagues, relevant practitioners, a few chums and your mum. Your family and pals do not expect to understand, still less enjoy, what you say. They just hope you will put up a good show.

If, like me, your special subject is thought to be difficult, but is actually not particularly cerebral, then it's pay-off time at last.

The payroll vote doesn't matter. They, like all courtiers, will take their lead from the vice-chancellor, who does. Most important are the practitioners, from whom the VC and governor will take their leads if you can just steer them in the right direction afterwards.

Then there are your colleagues. For some — those who hid their pain at your preferment — hope is dawdling. Don't bother trying to win them over. Are they all sitting comfortably? No? Then begin.

The author is a professor of family law. His inaugural lecture was called "Illegal Families".



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Total Insanity builds up a five point lead

The leaderboard for our Fantasy League game after the semi-final matches, appears right. With only two matches left in the competition our table shows A Stickland of Tonbridge, Kent, with a five point lead at the top of the table. His team, Total Insanity, has 117 points. French defender Lilian Thuram's two goals earned him six points. Other members of his team who helped him amass 13 points in the semi-finals were Brazil's midfielder Ronaldo, who gave him two points, Holland's midfielder Ronald de Boer with a further two points and Brazilian striker Ronaldo who earned him three points.

In second place is Kassahun Mammo of London E7, whose team Ibez-Q has 125 points. His team also scored 13 points with the same players as A Stickland but his defender Robert Jarni had a point deducted to bring his score to 12 for the semi-finals. Two points behind in third position is Ahmad Abdul-Ghani of London W2. His team, Robzam Tigers 1, has 123 points. He scored 10 points in the semi-final stages with six points from Thuram, three points from Ronaldo and two points from Rivaldo. He had a point deducted for defender Robert Jarni.



FANTASY LEAGUE LEADERBOARD

1	Total Insanity	Mr A Stickland	130
2	Ibez-Q	Kassahun Mammo	125
3	Robzam Tigers 1	Ahmad Abdul-Ghani	123
4	The Charlie Begg	Eoghan Quigley	122
5	Dream Team AFC	Richard O'Connell	122
6	Roma	Mads Larsen	121
7	Bluetings Weds	Andrew Dobson	121
8	Gooolalata	Fraser Parsons	121
9	Fox	Ian Lane	120
10	Milners Direct A	Mike Shipley	119
11	Mild The Threat	Mike Shipley	119
12	Jazzman	John Hosking	118
13	No Name	Giuseppe Fetta	118
14	Moe Gltz 35	James Cook	117
14	Bowens Cooks 1.1	Russell Cook	117
14	Fat And Round	Mr J Robertson	117
14	Ding F C	T Simpson	117
14	Wood Green M X V	Trevor Curtis	117
19	Pimp Seven	P Tusler	116
19	It's Not Coming H	Mr J Bates	116
19	Graham's Reserves	Graham Salter	116
19	Heid's Hopefats	Ewan Hardie	116
19	Kafrol 2	Yannis Agouris	116
19	The Mokon	Gareth Cotterell	116
19	Owzabouthatthen	David Mercer	116
26	Moo Poo Too	Jon Bennett	115
26	Foreign Legion	Nabil Lambert	115
26	Sexual Ealing	Terry Bullen	115
26	Brookflourwe	William Elliott	115
26	Azzam 38	Giuseppe Fetta	115
26	Cathal's Champs	Tathal Ryan	115
26	Duncan Heart133	Angus Duncan	115
26	Ian's Ace XI	Christopher Price	115
26	Dream Team 4	Dhamesh Patel	115
26	Harro We Go 2	Mr C Salt	114
35	International FI	Mr J Heaks	114
35	Dan's The Man	Brian Davies	114
35	Brothers Utd	Eric Brown	114
39	No Name	No Name	113
39	No Name	No Name	113
39	Irish Team	Sarah Thornton	113
39	The Clotneisters	Martyn Bedford	113
39	Chapman XI	Kunal Oak	113
39	Theworkshwzards	David Feldwick	113
39	Burton's Bears	Elizabeth Chille	113
39	78-NB	Chris Sticker	113
39	Len's Lions	Leonard Gibson	113
39	Selection Golden	Adalberto Araujo	113
39	Wild Cherry FC	Colin Edwards	113
39	Woodhill Green	Richard Camp	113
39	Beaverskids	David Hayes	113

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GOALKEEPERS				DEFENDERS				MIDFIELDERS				STRIKERS			
Player	Country	Rd	Tot	Player	Country	Rd	Tot	Player	Country	Rd	Tot	Player	Country	Rd	Tot
101 Carlos Roa	Argentina	0	7	201 Nestor Sossini	Argentina	0	0	325 Diego Simeone	Argentina	0	4	601 Gabriel Batistuta	Argentina	0	15
102 Pablo Cavaliero	Argentina	0	0	202 Jose Chamot	Argentina	0	1	306 Ariel Ortega	Argentina	0	10	602 Abel Balbo	Argentina	0	0
103 Nicolas Koneal	Argentina	0	0	203 Roberto Ayala	Argentina	0	7	307 Matias Almeyda	Argentina	0	0	603 Claudio Lopez	Argentina	0	5
104 Franz Wolfaardt	Austria	0	-1	204 Javier Zanetti	Argentina	0	8	308 Juan Sebastian Veron	Argentina	0	6	604 Herman Crespo	Argentina	0	0
105 Filip de Wilde	Austria	0	2	205 Pablo Paz	Austria	0	1	309 Marcelo Gallardo	Argentina	0	5	605 Toni Polster	Austria	0	3
106 Taffarel	Brazil	0	2	206 Fabian Pfeiffer	Austria	0	1	310 Andreas Herzog	Austria	0	3	606 Luc Nilis	Belgium	0	3
107 Carlos Gossaso	Brazil	0	1	207 Peter Schottel	Austria	0	-1	311 Peter Stoger	Austria	0	3	607 Luis Oliveira	Belgium	0	2
108 Carlos Gossaso	Brazil	0	2	208 Wolfgang Feiersinger	Austria	0	-1	312 Helmut Pfaffenberger	Austria	0	2	608 Lokozha Mpenza	Belgium	0	0
109 Boris Mikhalov	Bulgaria	0	0	209 Martin Hiden	Austria	0	0	313 Marco Sallava	Austria	0	0	609 Roberto	Brazil	0	13
110 Zdravko Zdravkov	Bulgaria	0	0	210 Bertrand Crascon	Belgium	0	0	314 Alexi Lalas	Austria	0	0	610 Edmundo	Brazil	0	3
111 Jacques Song'o'o	Cameroon	0	-2	211 Eric van Meir	Belgium	0	0	315 Siniša Mihajlovic	Yugoslavia	0	10	611 Ronaldo	Brazil	0	18
112 Nelson Tapia	Chile	0	-4	212 Vital Borkelmans	Belgium	0	2	316 Zoran Mirkovic	Yugoslavia	0	2	612 Edmundo	Brazil	0	3
113 Marcelo Ramirez	Chile	0	0	213 Eric Deflandre	Belgium	0	0	317 Goran Djorovic	Yugoslavia	0	4	613 Ristivo Stojichkov	Bulgaria	0	0
114 Oscar Cordoba	Colombia	0	0	214 Aldair	Brazil	0	2	318 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	614 Enal Kostadinov	Bulgaria	0	0
115 Farid Moustagra	Colombia	0	2	215 Caifi	Brazil	0	5	319 Enzo Scifo	Belgium	0	2	615 Limbovski Penev	Bulgaria	0	3
116 Drazen Ladic	Croatia	-1	8	216 Roberto Carlos	Brazil	0	1	320 Loozoo Stalens	Belgium	0	2	616 Alphonsse Tshami	Cameroon	0	0
117 Peter Schmeichel	Denmark	0	0	217 Ze Roberto	Brazil	0	-1	321 Nico van Kerckhoven	Belgium	0	4	617 Patrick Mboma	Cameroon	0	0
118 Nielsens Krogh	Denmark	0	0	218 Junior Balano	Brazil	0	0	322 Bert Verheyen	Belgium	0	0	618 Oussin Bykiel	Cameroon	0	5
119 David Seaman	England	0	4	219 Andre Cruz	Brazil	0	0	323 Philippe Clement	Belgium	0	0	619 Joseph-Destro Job	Cameroon	0	2
120 Tim Flowers	England	0	0	220 Ze Carlos	Brazil	0	-2	324 Leonardo	Brazil	0	0	620 Ivan Zamorano	Chile	0	4
121 Nigel Martyn	England	0	0	221 Trifon Ivanov	Bulgaria	0	-2	325 Gerit Verheyen	Belgium	0	0	621 Marcelo Salas	Chile	0	4
122 Bernard Lama	France	0	0	222 Radostin Kishishev	Bulgaria	0	-5	326 Gert Verheyen	Belgium	0	0	622 Antonio de Avila	Colombia	0	12
123 Fabien Barthez	France	0	0	223 Gesho Ginchev	Bulgaria	0	-5	327 Philippe Clement	Belgium	0	0	623 Victor Aristizabal	Colombia	0	0
124 Andreas Kopke	Germany	0	14	224 Ivailo Ginchev	Bulgaria	0	3	328 Leonardo	Brazil	0	0	624 Faustino Asprilla	Colombia	0	0
125 Oliver Kahn	Germany	0	3	225 Rigobert Song	Chile	0	-2	329 Danilo	Brazil	0	0	625 Hamilton Ricard	Croatia	0	0
126 Ed de Goey	Holland	0	0	226 Javier Nieves	Chile	0	-3	330 Leonardo	Brazil	0	0	626 Davor Saker	Croatia	3	15
127 Edwin van der Sar	Holland	0	0	227 Rivaldo	Brazil	0	2	331 Alexi Lalas	Austria	0	0	627 Goran Vranovic	Croatia	0	3
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129 Gianluca Pagliuca	Italy	0	8	229 Wilmer Cabrera	Colombia	0	2	333 Zoran Mirkovic	Yugoslavia	0	2	629 Miklos Molnar	Denmark	0	12
130 Gianluigi Buffon	Italy	0	0	230 Jorge Bernués	Colombia	0	2	334 Goran Djorovic	Yugoslavia	0	4	702 Peter Moller	Denmark	0	5
131 Warren Barrett	Jamaica	0	-6	231 Ivan Cordoba	Colombia	0	0	335 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	631 Alan Shearer	England	0	6
132 Yoshihiro Kawaguchi	Japan	0	-6	232 Ivano Cordoba	Colombia	0	0	336 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	632 Teddy Sheringham	England	0	0
133 Jorge Campos	Mexico	0	-3	233 Robert Jarni	Croatia	-1	13	337 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	633 Les Ferdinand	England	0	0
134 Abdelkader El Brazi	Morocco	0	0	234 Robert Jarni	Croatia	-1	10	338 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	634 Michael Owen	England	0	8
135 Drisc Benzelari	Morocco	0	0	235 Slavko Grcic	Croatia	-1	8	339 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	635 Christophe Dugary	France	0	5
136 Willy Oigara	Nigeria	0	0	236 Igor Stimac	Croatia	-1	10	340 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	636 Robert Pires	France	0	0
137 Peter Rufai	Nigeria	0	-3	237 Dario Sinić	Croatia	0	0	341 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	637 Stephane Guivarch	France	0	0
138 Frode Grodas	Norway	0	-1	238 Goran Juric	Croatia	0	0	342 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	640 David Trezeguet	France	0	7
139 Thomas Myrnes	Norway	0	0	239 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	343 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	642 Jürgen Kinemann	Germany	0	11
140 Jose Luis Chilavert	Paraguay	0	0	240 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	344 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	643 Ulf Kirsten	Germany	0	2
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143 Florin Prunea	Romania	0	0	243 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	347 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	646 Patrick Klavert	Holland	0	6
144 Andre Arendse	South Africa	0	0	244 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	348 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	647 Pierre van Hooijdonk	Holland	0	3
145 Brian Bakoli	South Africa	0	0	245 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	349 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	648 Jimmy F Hasselbaink	Holland	0	0
146 Hans Volck	South Africa	0	-3	246 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	350 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	649 Ali Daei	Iran	0	0
147 Mohammad Al-Deayea	Saudi Arabia	0	-4	247 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	351 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	650 Khodadad Azizi	Iran	0	2
148 Jim Leighton	Scotland	0	-3	248 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	352 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	651 Alessandro Del Piero	Italy	0	2
149 Neil Sullivan	Scotland	0	0	249 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	353 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	652 Christian Vieri	Italy	0	15
150 Kim Byung-Ji	South Korea	0	-6	250 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	354 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	653 Enrico Chiesa	Italy	0	0
151 Antonio Zambuzza	Spain	0	1	251 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	355 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	654 Filippo Inzaghi	Italy	0	0
152 Santiago Caizares	Spain	0	0	252 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	356 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	655 Walter Boyd	Jamaica	0	2
153 Ali Boumrijel	Tunisia	0	0	253 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	357 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	656 Paul Hall	Jamaica	0	0
154 Brad Friedel	USA	0	0	254 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	358 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	657 Deon Burton	Jamaica	0	0
155 Casey Keller	USA	0	-2	255 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	359 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	658 Masashi Nakayama	Japan	0	3
156 Ivica Krulj	Yugoslavia	0	4	256 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	360 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	659 Luis Hernandez	Mexico	0	12
157 Drago Lekovic	Yugoslavia	0	0	257 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	361 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	660 Cuauhtemoc Blanco	Mexico	0	7
				258 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	362 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	661 Ricardo Palaz	Mexico	0	8
				259 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	363 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	662 Salaheddine Bassir	Morocco	0	6
				260 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	364 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	663 Daniel Amokachi	Nigeria	0	2
				261 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	365 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	664 Victor Epoh	Nigeria	0	3
				262 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	366 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	665 Nwankwo Kanu	Nigeria	0	0
				263 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	367 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	666 Rachid Yekini	Nigeria	0	2
				264 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	368 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	667 Yaro Agye	Nigeria	0	0
				265 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	369 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	668 Egil Osenberg	Norway	0	5
				266 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	370 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	669 Ole Gunnar Solskjær	Norway	0	0
				267 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	371 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	670 Vidar Riseth	Norway	0	2
				268 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	372 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	671 Aristides Rojas	Norway	0	2
				269 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	3	373 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	4	672 Miguel Angel Benitez	Paraguay	0	

RACING: ELNADIM GIVES CHAMPION PERFORMANCE IN JULY CUP

Critics bring Hills alive

By CHRIS MCGRATH

THOUGH he has not been allowed to forget exactly how hard an act he had to follow, Richard Hills discovered at Newmarket yesterday that nothing, after all, succeeds quite like succession.



Hills group one success

As Elnadim tore clear of the Darley July Cup field at Newmarket, there was a corresponding sense of liberation, of breathing space, for his rider - claiming a first Group one victory since Willie Carson's retirement saw him appointed retained jockey to Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum.

Instead of Tamarisk and Danetime leading the toiling pack two lengths away, it might have been a flock of vultures that he had dispersed. Twelve months ago, Kieren Fallon used the July Meeting to silence those doubting his right to another of racing's most regal cavalries, with Henry Cecil. Though Hills has not had to endure anything resembling the same hysteria, he was painfully aware of the mutterings accompanying his anonymous

start. In Carson, after all, he replaced a jockey whose energetic style warmed the hearts of punters. In Elnadim, however, Hills has found an ally with the authentic look of a champion. Sheikh Hamdan, indeed, is now hoping that his loyalty to the Bredders' Cup Sprint, a race once denied him by the cruellest of luck - when Dayjur jumped a shadow at Belmont in 1990. "It's horrible to be criticised," Hills said. "But you've

Thunderer napped Elnadim (3-1) at Newmarket yesterday. The big-race winner was also recommended at 11-2 on Tuesday by Robert Wright in his Racing Ahead column and selected by Timekeeper (James Willoughby).

Elnadim finds buoyancy in the sort of ground that jars his more fragile rivals. He has such natural speed that John Dunlop, his trainer, hopes he can be as dominant over five furlongs in the Nunthorpe Stakes at York as he was over six yesterday.

Hills, riding his fifth winner of the meeting, exploited his high draw to tow the winning post towards him along the stands' rail. Though he had some early company, he soon edged into an effortless lead and then threw down the gauntlet by stretching two out. Though he was not stopping inside the last, that had been where he decided the race - and where he sealed yet another course record (on ground that had ruled out one of his principal rivals in Diktat).

"It's horrible to be criticised," Hills said. "But you've got to put it all to the back of your mind, keep your head down and keep your cool. Obviously, Willie had a tremendous amount of success with Sheikh Hamdan and some of the horses we have had since have not been as good as we were hoping, and we have also been unlucky, with injury and so on, with others. But Sheikh Hamdan is a tremendous boss and gives me confidence all the way through. Willie is great, too, I chat to him a lot."

Key of Elnadim, he added: "The key is the ground. We've been begging them not to water the course, because the novice has run this season it has been on loose ground. It's unfair on a horse of this class to clip his wings. Some like it soft, others firm, it's been like that for hundreds of years. Diktat had his going at Ascot and nature should be allowed to take its course."

Hills was later given a two-day ban (July 18 and 20) for excessive use of the whip on Elnadim but, even allowing for that, the going will somehow no longer seem quite so tough for him.

Tough Leader looks hard act to follow

YORK CHANNEL 4

2.05: A hectic pace is ensured from the front-running West-court Magic. Polly Goughly and Top Of The Form. Squire Corrie is 8th below his winning mark at Ayr last summer, but has yet to recapture his sparkle. Monte Lemos is the one potential improver and made an encouraging reappearance at Doncaster.

RICHARD EVANS
Nap: ASHRAAKAT (3.05 York)
Next best: Monte Lemos (2.05 York)



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.35: Indian Missile went well at Salisbury last time, but faces a tougher task. Yavana's Pace landed the valuable Hong Kong Jockey Club Trophy at Sandown, but Blueprint, a good third to Double Classic at Royal Ascot, and Tough Leader make more appeal. The latter returns to the trip which saw him produce his best effort behind Hajr at Epsom.

3.05: Ashraakat, a leading juvenile last year, gave an improved display when returned to sprinting at Newmarket after an abortive attempt over a mile in the 1,000 Guineas. She can win at the main expense of Nantouška, who should also appreciate a return to sprinting.

RICHARD EVANS

CHESTER

THUNDERER
6.35 Krave's Ash. 7.05 Sheffieldshayes. 7.35 Dukhan. 8.05 Oberon's Mistral. 8.35 Ivory's Joy. 9.05 On The Ridge.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
DRAW: 5F-7F 122V, LOW NUMBERS BEST

6.35 TARPORLEY APPRENTICES HANDICAP (€2,897; 7f 122v) (15 runners)
1 6100 CANTINA 6 (P) A Bailey 4-10-0
2 6210 SELECT CROSS 25 (L) J. J. 5-11-0
3 6102 SPIN ON DEBAS 16 (M) A King 5-5-7
4 6000 DEE-HK 48 (D) E Moran 4-9-5
5 6000 LUNCH PARTY 25 (D) P. 6-9-5
6 1826 TUFF 16 (L) S. 5-11-0
7 6000 MURPHY 16 (L) S. 5-11-0
8 6000 KRAVE'S ASH 16 (D) P. 6-9-5
9 6000 SUN LION 30 (M) D. 5-11-0
10 4485 AVON CROSS 14 (L) S. 5-11-0
11 6000 GABRIEL 24 (L) S. 5-11-0
12 6411 PUPPY GARARDS 15 (L) S. 5-11-0
13 6413 TALLAN 24 (L) S. 5-11-0
14 6000 TUFF 16 (L) S. 5-11-0
15 6000 TUFF 16 (L) S. 5-11-0

7.05 BAILEY'S ORIGINAL IRISH CREAM STAKES (€3,677; 1m 4f 66v) (5)

1 1040 SHARPSHAYES 27 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 0110 WENTWORTH 16 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 0110 HILL HORN DANCER 6 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0110 CASEY'S FOLLY 6 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 0110 OBERON'S MISTRAL 31 (D) S. 5-11-0

7.35 BREITLING WATCHES AND WALTONS OF CHESTER HANDICAP (€9,146; 1m 4f 66v) (6)

1 0400 TESSAUX 28 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 0110 CARBONITE 21 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 0110 WENTWORTH 16 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0110 HILL HORN DANCER 6 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 0110 CASEY'S FOLLY 6 (D) S. 5-11-0
6 0110 OBERON'S MISTRAL 31 (D) S. 5-11-0

8.05 HAWARDEN MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (€4,172; 7f 122v) (9)

1 0400 TESSAUX 28 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 0110 CARBONITE 21 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 0110 WENTWORTH 16 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0110 HILL HORN DANCER 6 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 0110 CASEY'S FOLLY 6 (D) S. 5-11-0
6 0110 OBERON'S MISTRAL 31 (D) S. 5-11-0

8.35 KIDSONS INVOICE HANDICAP (€3,900; 5f 66v) (16)

1 3400 BANGSHAM BLADE 26 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 0110 THE LINDSEY 24 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 0110 CLASSY 28 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0110 BLINDFOLD LINE 12 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 0110 JAWAN 20 (D) S. 5-11-0
6 0110 MISS PRINCE 13 (D) S. 5-11-0
7 0110 SUNNY 20 (D) S. 5-11-0
8 0110 MAMMOCK 24 (D) S. 5-11-0
9 0110 EASTERN LIGHT 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
10 0110 MONTY 20 (D) S. 5-11-0
11 0110 ANTONY'S CHOICE 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
12 0110 HAPPY DAYS 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
13 0110 HIGH CARRY 20 (D) S. 5-11-0
14 0110 ALMIGHTY 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
15 0110 SAGA 24 (D) S. 5-11-0
16 0110 YOUNG BIRD 11 (D) S. 5-11-0

9.05 FARMOND CONDITIONS STAKES (€10,578; 1m 2f 75v) (3)

1 23-2 LORO DE WEN 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 1300 ALJAM 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 381 ON THE RIDGE 27 (D) S. 5-11-0

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
2.20 Dryad. 2.50 Lady Ell. 3.20 Cheerful Groom. 3.50 Summer Queen. 4.20 Bonne Ville. 4.50 Shifting Time.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.20 LEGAL AND GENERAL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (€3,000; €2,322; 6f) (9 runners)

1 3400 CRITICAL AM 14 (P) M. 5-11-0
2 0200 DRYAD 20 (L) S. 5-11-0
3 0200 MARIAN 14 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0200 TO GO 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 0200 PRESS HEAD 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
6 0200 SUN DANCER 16 (D) S. 5-11-0
7 0200 MISS DEARLY 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
8 0200 GUY 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
9 0200 LINDSEY 24 (D) S. 5-11-0

2.50 MOORE STEPHENS BOOTH WHITE CLAIMING STAKES (€3,300; €1,773; 1m 1f 75v) (7)

1 2004 AMBER RECENT 30 (D) P. 6-9-5
2 0204 ROSIE JAMES 20 (L) S. 5-11-0
3 0204 RUBY BEAR 8 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0204 LADY BE 20 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 0204 MISS CHRISTY 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
6 0204 BELLE DE MONTFORT 31 (D) S. 5-11-0
7 0204 ROCK FROM THE SKY 20 (D) S. 5-11-0

3.20 THORPE VERDON AND COMPANY HANDICAP (€3,580; 1m 100v) (5)

1 0510 HONORARY LAD 16 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 0510 HONORARY LAD 16 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 0510 SEA SPURSE 17 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0510 KALEY GODDARD 21 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 0510 CHEERFUL GROOM 11 (D) S. 5-11-0

HAMILTON PARK

THUNDERER
7.00 Johayro. 7.26 Angie Baby. 7.55 Palacogate Touch. 8.26 The Munro's. 8.55 Night City. 9.25 Disco Tex.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F. HIGH NUMBERS BEST

7.00 NEWMARKET HAKED OUT SERIES FINAL AMATEUR HANDICAP (€3,648; 5f 60v) (14 runners)
1 4143 TAMBUL 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 4413 JUST SOB 10 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 3542 JOHAYRO 4 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 5400 RAMSEY HOPE 26 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 5282 MISTER WESTWIND 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
6 3406 PALLINA 4 (D) S. 5-11-0
7 3100 HARRY 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
8 1100 LIVE PROLETS 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
9 2503 ANOTHER NEIGHMARE 4 (D) S. 5-11-0
10 3534 BFF-EM 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
11 1105 FIVE TIMES 4 (D) S. 5-11-0
12 6400 CHAMPAGNE 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
13 0500 MULE EASY 22 (D) S. 5-11-0
14 0400 RAPID MOVER 26 (D) S. 5-11-0

7.25 SCOTTISHPOWER NOVICE AUCTION STAKES QUALIFIER (€2,000; €3,063; 5f 40v) (5)

1 2114 ANGLE BABY 20 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 0200 SPURSE 17 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 1200 CHEERFUL GROOM 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0204 CLAM 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 24 SWYRVED WELCOME 11 (D) S. 5-11-0

7.55 FIELD & LAWN SELLING STAKES (€2,819; 6f 50v) (9)

1 5544 PALACOGATE TOUCH 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 5010 MANTON 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 0400 ANOTHER NEIGHMARE 4 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 0200 CAPTAIN CARAT 20 (D) S. 5-11-0
6 0200 ROYAL LOVE 22 (D) S. 5-11-0
7 0200 DEE 15 (D) S. 5-11-0
8 2500 SILVER BARRY 15 (D) S. 5-11-0
9 0200 WANDA MORN 6 (D) S. 5-11-0

8.25 SUNDAY MAIL SERIES FINAL HANDICAP (€3,567; 1m 1f 70v) (10)

1 0400 HALLWAY 22 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 0121 BORN LAD 10 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 2022 RABBIT 10 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0200 ANOTHER NEIGHMARE 4 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 1014 RICHARDSON 20 (D) S. 5-11-0
6 1562 GARDNER 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
7 0200 ROYAL LOVE 22 (D) S. 5-11-0
8 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
9 0164 KATIE MORN 6 (D) S. 5-11-0
10 0200 WANDA MORN 6 (D) S. 5-11-0

8.55 JOE PUNTER CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES (€3,386; 1m 4f 17v) (5)

1 0122 NIGHT CITY 17 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 0340 ON A PRODUCE 14 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 1114 GOOD HAND 4 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0200 SPURSE 17 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 1254 LUDLOW 11 (D) S. 5-11-0

9.25 JULY HANDICAP (€2,668; 1m 50v) (8)

1 402 SAGEE LAD 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 0400 WANDA 22 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 0400 MONTY 20 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0200 ANOTHER NEIGHMARE 4 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
6 0200 ROYAL LOVE 22 (D) S. 5-11-0
7 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
8 0200 ROYAL LOVE 22 (D) S. 5-11-0

3.50 LOMBARD NUTWEG COMMERCIAL SERVICES CLASSIFIED STAKES (€2,365; 7f) (10)

1 1023 WHITE SETTLER 8 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 0400 BARRACLOUGH 17 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 46-P DARING LIGHT 57 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0400 SAGEE LAD 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 0200 ANOTHER NEIGHMARE 4 (D) S. 5-11-0
6 0200 ROYAL LOVE 22 (D) S. 5-11-0
7 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
8 0200 ROYAL LOVE 22 (D) S. 5-11-0
9 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
10 0200 ROYAL LOVE 22 (D) S. 5-11-0

4.20 ALAN TRENCH (TRENNE) INVESTMENT SELLING STAKES (€1,953; 1m 4f) (9)

1 0500 AVONN BLUE 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 1002 BANNERED 14 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 0200 RUBY BEAR 8 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 0200 ROYAL LOVE 22 (D) S. 5-11-0
6 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
7 0200 ROYAL LOVE 22 (D) S. 5-11-0
8 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
9 0200 ROYAL LOVE 22 (D) S. 5-11-0

4.50 ROYAL BANK INVOICE FINANCE FILLIES HANDICAP (€2,301; 7f) (7)

1 5025 PHOENIX 11 (D) S. 5-11-0
2 0200 ANOTHER NEIGHMARE 4 (D) S. 5-11-0
3 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
4 0200 ROYAL LOVE 22 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. 5-11-0
6 0200 ROYAL LOVE 22 (D) S. 5-11-0
7 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. 5-11-0

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Woodcock, 3 winners from 6 runners; 50.0%
JOCKEYS: P Beatty, 4 winners from 12 rides; 33.3%
D. O'Connell, 3 winners from 12 rides; 25.0%
M. J. Smith, 2 winners from 12 rides; 16.7%
R. J. Moore, 1 winner from 12 rides; 8.3%
S. J. Hinchey, 1 winner from 12 rides; 8.3%

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER
6.45 Bon Ami. 7.15 My Handsome Prince. 7.45 Alwyn Archer. 8.15 Pride Of My Heart. 8.45 Sharp Pearl. 9.15 Zernatt.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH BEST SIS

6.45 EBF RENISHAW SILVER TIME NOVICE STAKES (€2,000; €3,323; 5f) (7 runners)
1 0154 KING ROLLY 40 (D) P. W. M. 9-4-0
2 4422 BON AMI 10 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
3 131 REALISE 10 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
4 0400 ELEYBARRA 22 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
5 325 SILVER SENSE 53 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
6 4 ADDITION 30 (D) S. J. 5-11-0

7.15 RENISHAW SILVER BOWL SELLING HANDICAP (€2,640; 1m 140v) (18)

1 522 BRISTOLTON 15 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
2 0400 SILVER HAWK 16 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
3 024 LAMBERTA 25 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
4 000 ELEYBARRA 22 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
5 3001 HOLLOWAY MELBURY 7 (D) S. J. 5-11-0

7.45 JACK BROWN BOOKMAKER HANDICAP (€3,000; €2,474; 2m 49v) (4)

1 132 CINDY 25 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
2 132 CINDY 25 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
3 2211 ALLYBURY ARROW 11 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
4 4 CORNICE 52 (D) S. J. 5-11-0

8.15 RENISHAW 25TH ANIVERSARY HANDICAP (€3,000; €3,615; 1m 140v) (8)

1 212 MARIE LAD 24 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
2 400 RYAN 13 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
3 1140 COMOUTROPHOS 20 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
4 0200 FAIRWAY 18 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
5 5022 LAUREN'S LAD 15 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
6 0215 TUFF 16 (D) S. J. 5-11-0

8.45 EBF RENISHAW SILVER CUP CLASSIFIED STAKES (€2,003; 6f 16v) (8)

1 0200 ALBERT THE BEAR 16 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
2 0200 HARE TO HARE 12 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
3 353 ALBY BERGARD 20 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
4 0200 ANOTHER NEIGHMARE 4 (D) S. 5-11-0
5 0200 ROYAL LOVE 22 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
6 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
7 0200 ROYAL LOVE 22 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
8 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. J. 5-11-0

9.15 RENISHAW APPRENTICE HANDICAP (€2,400; 1m 4f 20v) (12)

1 1080 PARY NOMAGE 11 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
2 2011 ANIMALS BEHIND 20 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
3 0200 KERRY BUFF 14 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
4 0200 OPENA RUFF 11 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
5 0200 ZERNATT 7 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
6 0200 SHARPPEE 16 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
7 0200 ROCK ROBE 16 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
8 0200 MILE AMITIE 7 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
9 0200 CELESTIAL FIRE 27 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
10 0200 CALL MY BELL 11 (D) S. J. 5-11-0

COURSE SPECIALISTS

CHEPSTOW: Trainers: L. Carron, 7 winners from 12 runners; 58.3%
Jockeys: J. Hinchey, 3 winners from 12 rides; 25.0%
D. O'Connell, 2 winners from 12 rides; 16.7%
M. J. Smith, 1 winner from 12 rides; 8.3%
R. J. Moore, 1 winner from 12 rides; 8.3%

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
2.00 Mystical. 2.30 Black Silk. 3.00 Phoenix Princess. 3.30 Terranova. 4.00 Tabasco. 4.30 Errant.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (ALL-WEATHER STANDARD) SIS
DRAW: 6F-7F 140V TURF, HIGH NUMBERS

2.00 STOCKBROKER CLAIMING STAKES (ALL-WEATHER) (€2,070; 5f) (9 runners)
1 0400 ANAKATO 13 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
2 0400 PALACOGATE TOUCH 7 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
3 0304 PIZCOTTO 16 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
4 0200 MYSTICAL 28 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
5 0200 FREELY BRAVE 9 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
6 0200 BOLD FRONTIER 20 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
7 0200 MONTGOMERY COBBLE 9 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
8 0200 NEWBORN 11 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
9 0200 WICHTA 14 (D) S. J. 5-11-0

2.30 RYDON GROUP MAIDEN STAKES (€2,000; €3,871; 6f) (8)

1 06 2 BLACK SILK 14 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
2 06 2 BLACK SILK 14 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
3 06 2 BLACK SILK 14 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
4 06 2 BLACK SILK 14 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
5 06 2 BLACK SILK 14 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
6 06 2 BLACK SILK 14 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
7 06 2 BLACK SILK 14 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
8 06 2 BLACK SILK 14 (D) S. J. 5-11-0

3.00 NICHOLSON GRAHAM & JONES FILLIES HANDICAP (€2,287; 6f) (12)

1 1110 IVORY DAWN 16 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
2 0200 YOUNG PRODUCE 11 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
3 0200 CYBERTECHNOLOGY 9 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
4 0200 HIGH SPIRITS 14 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
5 0200 ASSET MANAGER 11 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
6 0200 DUKHAN 14 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
7 0200 LUCKY ARCHER 7 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
8 0200 ROYAL RESULT 27 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
9 0200 PRIDE OF PENDLE 12 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
10 0200 SHARLES 18 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
11 0200 HELIX NORTH 4 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
12 0200 SHARLES 18 (D) S. J. 5-11-0

3.35 BUNKER STAKES (€2,791; 7f 140v) (5)

1 0200 CAYMAN 10 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
2 0200 MISS KEPT SECRET 7 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
3 0200 DUKHAN 14 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
4 0200 LUCKY ARCHER 7 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
5 0200 PHOENIX PRINCESS 27 (D) S. J. 5-11-0

4.00 GABLE STAR BEE HANDICAP (€3,000; €2,925; 1m 3f 100v) (10)

1 0200 FOREST FIRE 15 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
2 0201 TRILLIUM 12 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
3 0200 FRANKLIN LANCES 18 (D) S. J. 5-11-0
4 0200 CAPTAIN MONTG

GOLF: SCOT GOES ON THE DEFENSIVE AFTER LEHMAN ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN RIVAL'S UNPOPULARITY IN UNITED STATES

Montgomerie chooses words unwisely

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THERE are days when reports of golf tournaments do little more than chronicle the deeds of Colin Montgomerie. With a nod of apology for plagiarising the title of John Steinbeck's book about travelling across the US with Charley, his dog, we could write one called *Travels with Monty* that would contain chapters about our hero in parts as distant as Thailand and Trossachs, San Francisco and South Africa.

Such close scrutiny of Montgomerie is deserved when the man who has dominated European golf these past five years has played well enough to demand attention. On occasions, though, it is because he has put his admittedly large foot into it or because of some development in which the Scot figures prominently yet unknowingly.

The last of these applied to Montgomerie in the second round of the World Invitational here at Loch Lomond. Controversy swirled around Montgomerie as he, ignorant of what was being said about him by Tom Lehman, the defending champion, played some quite good golf for a 71 level par, to be one over par after 36 holes. He trails Ross Drummond by six strokes, and Lee Westwood, who had another 69, and Stephen Allan by five strokes.

Lehman, the 1996 Open champion, a steadfast man, had no sooner completed his second round, a 68, to be one under par, than he started to make comparisons between Montgomerie and Westwood. The young Englishman, Lehman said, was perceived positively whereas the perception of Montgomerie was a negative one and Montgomerie should do something to overcome this.

"Lee would fit pretty well into California," Lehman said. "He just plays golf, has a smile on his face and seems to be pretty easygoing. You don't necessarily need that attitude. The one thing you need is good PR. It is unfortunate that once you get labelled a certain way, it is tough to shake it. So Lee has good vibes going and Monty has to do something to



Westwood follows the flight of his tee-shot at the 17th yesterday during his second successive 69 in the World Invitational at Loch Lomond. Photograph: Chris Bacon

get over this negative perception.

"It's unfair, because the average golfing public doesn't know Monty," Lehman continued. "Anybody who knows him realises the guy is a helluva guy and a gentleman. Off the golf course he is a fantastic guy to be around. On the golf course he is a tough competitor and the players know that and respect that. The golf fans don't in America."

This last is certainly true. In the United States, Montgomerie is less popular than apple pie. Some of those on the fringe of golf regard him to be a cry baby, for weeping after failing to win last year's US Open, and a figure of hate, for remarks he made about the

US Ryder Cup team before last year's contest in Spain.

During the US Open in San Francisco last month, listeners to a local radio station in southern California were encouraged by a disc jockey to go to the Olympic Club and barrack the Scot. Some of them clearly followed orders and such was the level of antipathy towards Montgomerie that he was given a police escort for the last few holes of his second round and the next 36 holes.

After the second round, Jim Furyk and David Duval, Montgomerie's playing partners, both spoke out on Montgomerie's behalf. Yesterday Lehman added his voice. "I've seen Monty do things on the golf course to make people

raise their eyebrows but there is still no need for someone to get heckled significantly.

"Part of what makes him a great player is his fiery competitiveness. Part of that is to say something without even thinking, whether to a marshal or someone in the gallery.

Or he'll say something in the heat of the battle that will get taken the wrong way in an interview or something. What makes him great is his competitiveness.

"If he were an American, they would love him. If he was John McEnroe, he'd be the

greatest thing since whatever ... but he's not. I know one thing: if he was on my team, I'd be a happy camper."

When Montgomerie was confronted with this friendly assessment by a fellow player, he preferred to ignore the criticism of his public relations, which are in need of improvement, and concentrate instead on other aspects. He chose to take it as an attack on his playing record and responded accordingly.

"I'm sorry that America did not win the Ryder Cup. I just did my job and I'm sorry they've lost the Ryder Cup the last two times but it hasn't been my fault. There have been 22 other guys who have played alongside me, 22 other guys who have done rather

well. Yet I tend to be seen as the reason America lost the Ryder Cup. I got the most points, I was Europe's top player and I came down the last hole with Scott Hoch.

Those three things were seen to be the things that won Europe the Ryder Cup, but that's just not the way it was."

This is the nub of it. Montgomerie is unable to accept well-meant, and accurate, advice. He is highly articulate and intelligent and truly a gifted golfer. But like Nick Faldo before him, about whom many of the same things have been said at different times, Montgomerie seems destined to be misunderstood. This, in part, is his own fault. He certainly could improve his PR.

SCORES FROM LOCH LOMOND

LEADERS AFTER TWO ROUNDS (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 137: R Drummond 71, 68; L Westwood 69, 69; S Allan (Aus) 70, 68; D Ebdon (Swe) 70, 69; A Coakley 71, 69; P Brodhurst 69, 71; W Coombes 67, 73; G Orr 68, 72; 141: T Lehman (US) 73, 68; M A Jiménez (Sp) 71, 70; J Spence 70, 71; S Appleby (Aus) 73, 68; P McGinley 72, 69; E Romer (Arg) 71, 70; 142: C Hooper 70, 68, 74; P Baker 73, 69; 143: Gauril 73, 69; S Garcia (Sp) 71, 71; C Dennis (US) 74, 68; A Costa (Ger) 71, 71; 144: S Tomasco 73, 70; D Cooper 75, 69; A Cabrera (Arg) 72, 71; C Montgomerie 72, 71; J M Ocasio (Sp) 72, 71; P Harrington 74, 68; J van de Veldt (Nl) 71, 72; 144: M Frazar (I) 73, 71; J McHenry 73, 71; J Farnick (Swe) 71, 73; M Larner (Swe) 72, 72; P Fuke (Swe) 75, 69; J Payne 74, 70; D Robertson 72, 72; S Clark (US) 70, 74; J Haegeman (Swe) 73, 71; R Allery (Aus) 72, 72; 146: T Lovell (I) 74, 71; T Gopple (Ger) 75, 69; S Field 75, 70; M Greenberg (Swe) 75, 70; I Gando (Sp) 72, 73; T Egan (Ire) 73, 72; S Lawrie (Aus) 75, 70; K Ekblom (Swe) 75, 72; 148: J Sanden (Swe) 75, 71; G Day (US) 75, 71; R Chapman 76, 70; P Eskes 76, 70; S Arnes (Ire) 75, 71; S Shaw (Ger) 74, 72; O Karlsson (Swe) 74, 72; A Olofsson 71, 75; R Darwent (US) 70, 70, 147; P Sjöberg (Swe) 74, 73; D Hooper (Sp) 74, 73; J Coombe (Arg) 75, 72; S Lurie (Sp) 74, 73; S Cape 72, 75; G Turner (NZ) 73, 74; D Carter 72, 75; B Davis 73, 74. Other scores: 148: A Lyle 75, 73.

Christopher Irvine on the rugby league roadshow that opens tonight

Spreading the gospel far and wide

As the JJB Super League sets off for three weeks on the road, Gary Hetherington will be doubly delighted to see a big crowd for the first match between Leeds Rhinos and Salford Reds at Gateshead International Stadium tonight. Hetherington, the Rhinos' chief executive, will understandably be hoping loyal supporters make the trek up the A1 from Leeds but will also extend a welcoming hand to the native population.

The pioneer of Sheffield Eagles in the Eighties with his wife, Kath, Hetherington is now a driving force of the Gateshead Super League franchise bid and sees the North East as another natural extension for the sport. "Like Sheffield, football is king here, but in schools and talking to people, there's an enthusiasm and appreciation of the game," he said. "Roots have been put down and 90 per cent of the crowd will be from the local area."

As the only one of five chosen venues outside the game's heartlands to stage two "on the road" fixtures, the mood in Gateshead can be gauged before the decision next month whether to make it a permanent feature — 50 years after the last failed attempt to branch out into the North East.

Newcastle, who moved to the old White City greyhound track in Gateshead in 1937, folded the following year after two seasons. Over five years, Mick Hogan, the Rugby Football League (RFL) North East development officer, has fostered a strong junior and thriving amateur competition.



Marvin Golden, left, will be trying to help Leeds Rhinos to strengthen their JJB Super League challenge when they take to the road to play Salford Reds in Gateshead tonight.

Yet Gateshead, like Cardiff, the other favourite Super League applicants, are having to recruit principally from Australasia to ensure their competitiveness next season. A multinational team, particularly a successful one, need not be an impediment, as Newcastle rugby union club have already proved. However, as Newcastle may also move in at Gateshead,

there is the question of whether the North East public can accept two codes of rugby. Despite a history of well-supported international and World Cup rugby league matches, the 11,795 capacity at Gateshead is expected to be only half reached tonight. "The football World Cup has dominated people's thinking, so they are coming to it a little late. Also, by calling it Super

League 'on the road', we've given the false impression of exhibition matches," Hetherington said. The failure by Super League Europe (SLE) to transmit the message of a meaningful extra round of matches counting towards league points is not an auspicious start for an organisation established by the leading clubs to market themselves better.

By hawking matches around the country, SLE needs to demonstrate a desire among new audiences for a sport whose expansionist agenda has persisted for 103 years with few tangible results.

At a point when the game needs all the new friends it can get, the atmosphere between SLE and the RFL, the game's governing body, remains strained. RFL officials will attend tonight, but merely as guests of Gateshead council. Like so many other good ideas that rugby league has, it lacks the unity of purpose to make them a success.

One columnist wrote this week that the best way for the critics of Maurice Lindsay, the SLE managing director, to be silenced would be for the matches to attract sell-out crowds over the next three weeks. An estimated 4,000 Bradford Bulls supporters are set to rally to his assistance in Edinburgh tomorrow week. Cardiff could muster a respectable audience; at this stage, ticket sales for Northampton and Swansea look less promising.

Whatever the outcome, supporters had better get used to travelling outside the M62 corridor next year. If not ready to give wholehearted support to teams that already exist, Gateshead and Cardiff are gaining a seemingly unstoppable momentum for ones of their own next year.

FIGURES: Tonight Leeds Rhinos v Salford Reds, Gateshead International Stadium, 7.45. July 17, Sheffield Eagles v Hull FC, Stadio Stadium, Northampton, 7.45. 18, Bradford Bulls v London Broncos, Twickenham, 7.15. 24, Hull Sharks v Huddersfield Giants, Gateshead, 7.45. 25, Warrington Wolves v Castleford Tigers, Carrington, 8.05. 26, St Helens v Wigan Warriors, Vetch Field, Swansea, 8.45.

CRICKET

Midlands pair on collision course

By RICHARD HOBSON

LEICESTERSHIRE, the only county still involved on all four domestic fronts, have been drawn against Warwickshire, who came within a win of completing the grand slam in 1994, in the quarter-finals of the NatWest Trophy. The most interesting tie of the round could attract a crowd of around 4,000 to Grace Road, usually a cold-bed of English cricket.

There is a momentum gathering around Leicestershire, who are bidding to win the oldest one-day competition for the first time. Tomorrow, they play Essex in the Benson and Hedges Cup final at Lord's, while in the Britannic Assurance county championship they lie second, behind Surrey. Although six points adrift of Essex, the leaders, in the Axa League, they have a match in hand.

Warwickshire, the beaten finalists last year, have at last discovered the form that made them fancied in all events before the start of the season. They were narrowly beaten, by three wickets with three balls to spare, by Leicestershire in the Benson and Hedges zonal game in May. This tie could be as close.

"In the first half of the season we did not play good cricket and most of the time it was down to our batting. We are now playing more in the way people expected," Brian Lara, the Warwickshire captain, said.

By the quarter-final, Lara, who scored 133 in the second-round win against Kent, his

DRAW

Middlesex v Hampshire
Surrey v Derbyshire
Leicestershire v Warwickshire
Lancashire v Nottinghamshire
To be played on Tuesday, July 28

best score of the season, should have responded to a letter from the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board asking about his commitment to them as captain through the next West Indies season.

Both London counties have been given home draws. Middlesex, after making hard work of Durham, entertain Hampshire, conquerors of the defending champions, Essex, while Surrey meet Derbyshire. There is nothing more surprising than Surrey's erratic one-day form, which has meant a continued presence at the foot of the Sunday league.

Lancashire, winners of the competition a record six times, were presented with a third successive home tie when they were drawn to play Nottinghamshire at Old Trafford.

Thorpe may miss rest of season

THE back problems that have afflicted Graham Thorpe over the past few months could cause the England batsman to miss the rest of the season. A decision will be made next week.

Thorpe, who missed Surrey's victory in the NatWest Trophy second round over Gloucestershire on Wednesday, saw a consultant in London yesterday, but Surrey, who are in close touch with the England management over any likely course of action, said that it was too early to comment on the examination.

The likely outcome is that Thorpe will face an operation to correct the muscle spasms near the base of the spine that have intermittently caused him serious pain this year, including obvious difficulty during the third Test at Old Trafford over the past week.

Thorpe has missed England's past seven one-day internationals — both in the West Indies earlier in the year and in the Texaco Trophy games against South Africa in May — as a result of the injury.

SWIMMING

Doctor's orders suit Palmer

By CRAIG LORD

THE world sports fashion record that Paul Palmer established yesterday helped to set aside the health fears that had caused the European champion to instruct his parents to cancel their tickets to the Commonwealth Games just two weeks ago.

Looking not unlike a cross between a speed-skater and a giant fluorescent humbug, Palmer, 23, had set his record before leaving the blocks on his way to victory in 1min 49.22sec in the 200 metres freestyle at the Commonwealth Games trials at Pond's Forge, Sheffield.

Palmer, who was Britain's only individual medal-winner at the world championships in January, became the first in the world to wear the Adidas Equipment Bodysuit in competition.

He had not expected great things at these trials after a sustained period of ill-health. However, his time yesterday, produced in a tremendous duel with Gavin Meadows, of Leeds, who dipped under 1min 50sec for the first time with 1:49.58, was the fastest Palmer has ever swum in domestic competition and less than half a second away from his British record.

Palmer put his form down to the rest forced on him by doctor's orders in the run-up to the trials, and the suit. "When I first saw it, I thought, 'Well, is this the sort of thing a lad ought to wear?'" he said. "But if it

makes me faster, who cares what it looks like. I feel it really does help. It claps the muscles and you don't feel the oscillation you normally feel. It leaves you feeling less tired at the end of the race."

Palmer was one of five victors for University of Bath swimmers on the first day of four at these trials, with three swimmers qualifying for the Games in all but one race, the women's 400 metres medley. Of the six likely to be selected for the 4 x 200 metres relay squad, the third fastest in the world, four are from Bath.

That success left room for only two wins apiece for City of Leeds and Portsmouth Northsea swimmers, although several juniors from smaller clubs made the England senior team for the first time.

Every session has its up-set, and yesterday's was the failure by Stephen Parry, of Liverpool, to qualify for the 100 metres butterfly even though there are three places per event.

Hickman, of Leeds, won the race in 53.29sec, just 0.06sec outside his own British record, but after he stopped the scoreboard went on, and on, and on. Back-up timing had to be used and it was ten minutes or so before Parry's fourth-place fate was known. Parry had been a medal hope alongside Hickman. He will now have to rely on his 200 metres race to book a ticket to Malaysia in September.

The Feather

1850 - The golfer's favourite ball, well, the only ball available in the year Standard Life came into being. Made of pieces of dry leather and you've guessed it, feathers.

Gutta Percha

1860 - By now this had become the choice of discerning golfers everywhere, in much the same way Standard Life was becoming the preferred choice among people who wanted a good return on their investment.

Hand Hammered Gutta

1870 - Ball manufacturers had found that the chips made by repeated hitting enabled the ball to travel further. Incidentally Standard Life were also travelling further with 70% of their business coming from abroad.

Wound Rubber Ball

1890 - This was a breakthrough in the modern game. The new style of ball had a 100% core. Something that Standard Life had been enjoying for years now.

Modern Ball

1920 - Advances in materials and regularity in the construction of the ball meant that people could rely on consistent performance whatever the conditions. Now, who does that remind you of?

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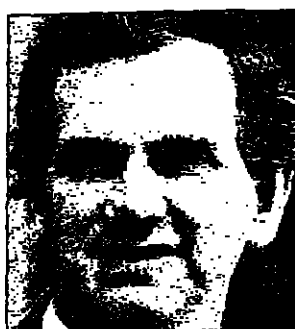
حکومتی الاصل

WORLD CUP 98

Thuram brings semblance of unity to nation

MAYBE it is France, not South Africa, that we should now call the Rainbow Nation of sport. Late into yesterday morning, the greatest celebration since Liberation Day turned the Champs-Élysées crimson with flares. And, in the later morning, at the national team's retreat at Clairefontaine, we visited Les Bleus.

ROB HUGHES



Chief Sports Writer

Laurent Blanc, the libero who is no longer at liberty to represent his country after being sent off against Croatia, lamented about his "personal catastrophe". In the same room, or rather the tent erected in the grounds to accommodate more than a thousand journalists, Lilian Thuram, the right back who had ended France's sterility by scoring both goals, was reflecting on his new experience: hero worship in the nation where he was born. Thuram's parents came from Guadeloupe. He is black and, at the European championship in England two summers ago, he was subjected to a racist observation from Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the far-right National Front, as being a member of "an artificial team, bringing players from abroad and calling them a French team".

How now does this nation, attempting to accept the round-ball game culturally, cope with its polyglot team, the majority of whom have foreign ancestry? Two forces are tearing the French: one is nationalism masquerading as football euphoria, the other is the straightforward recognition that Thuram, Zinedine Zidane, Marcel Desailly and their comrades are very French when dressed in the blue jersey, and are performing something quite heroic in French sporting history.

'I still can't believe I've scored my first two goals for my country'

"I slept badly, thinking what was going on," Thuram said yesterday. "I didn't think their goal was my fault [though most certainly did]. But we had to do something quickly, and I still can hardly believe that I have scored my first two goals for my country. In all my playing years, I have scored only five times for Monaco and only once for Parma. Normally, if I'm in front of goal, I go blank."

These are not normal times. Thuram is a full back, but a player of superb balance, of swiftness, muscle and deter-

mination. And, when he scored, within 30 seconds of the Croatia goal, he answered on behalf of the tricolour nation the question that was in our throats. How would the French morale cope with going a goal down?

Thuram's reflection that, as a player, he is more used to kicking the ball into the tribune, the stand, brought guffaws. Close by, there was sympathy for Blanc. He is in his 33rd year, coming to the end of a career in which he, a defender of the utmost elegance, has represented France on 74 occasions. The French management had attempted, forlornly, to protest to Fifa, the world governing body, about his sending-off, not because

I have to remain calm. It is my personal catastrophe, but if the red card had contributed to France not reaching the final, I would never have been able to forgive myself. For Blanc, comparative consolation. Unlike David Beckham, he will not carry the burden of costing the team, only himself.

The air at Clairefontaine was a world away from the contrived fervour, the klaxon-horn frenzy of Paris and other cities. The impression was that France, in the final of the competition it invented 70 years ago for the first time, has now accomplished its mission, win or lose against Brazil. Coach Aimé Jacquet, walking with a more perky stride, held his press conference like a professor engaging students. He thanked everyone in the country, particularly the youth coaches of France, and he insisted that the whole country had found soul, had become one big community through this World Cup.

Didier Deschamps, his captain, from Spanish descent by the way, sauntered into the press area sucking a lollipop and with sunglasses on top of his forehead. He, too, spoke of the rendezvous on Sunday with Brazil, but sang a slightly different tune to his coach.

"There are too many people inside the stadium in suits," he said. "We do not get a great feeling of support. The people who could have made the difference are outside. You could see our substitutes trying to motivate the crowd. I just hope they'll wake up for the final. We don't want to hear the sound of samba for 90 minutes."

Other sounds are penetrating the revolutionary applause for football. Earlier in the week, Lionel Jospin, the socialist Prime Minister, had praised the multi-culture within the France team. Now Jospin is equating the upswing in football fervour to the improvement in the economic climate in his first year of office. And Claude Bartolone, minister in charge of urban affairs, joined in. "I hope this black-white-and-Arab team will help drive racist sentiment away," he broadcast, "and show the country that, with will, one can win."

All together now, the French are united. One is reminded of Albert Einstein's theory: nationalism is an infantile disease, the measles of mankind.



Thuram talks more than a thousand journalists through the goals that put France into the World Cup final and sparked a night of unrivalled joy

France seek to put past behind them

You might almost call it the end of the French connection. The French connection, that is to say, with losing World Cup semi-finals. At the fourth time of asking, France have avoided falling at the penultimate fence and reached the final of the competition that they invented.

You might say, with some sadness, that there is a rough parallel now with what happened in Sweden in 1958, an analogy between Bob Jonquet then and Laurent Blanc today.

Forty years ago, in Stockholm, France were trailing 2-1 to Brazil at half-time but were by no means down and out. Then Jonquet, such an elegant centre half, the Blanc de ses jours, mistimed a challenge that led to a collision with Vavá, the Brazil centre forward. Jonquet broke his leg.

There were no substitutes in those days and he bravely did his best to stay on, but he was a cripple. A rampant 17-year-old called Pelé scored three second-half goals to France's one, by Roger Piantoni, and Brazil triumphed 5-2.

Blanc, of course, was not injured in the game against Croatia, but was sent off, will miss the final and will thus deprive France of the master of their defence, a player at once strong and elegant, who could even move up to score vital goals, as he did in extra time to beat Paraguay.

Frank Leboeuf, who may have faint delusions of grandeur, will probably take his place, a powerful player with a hammer of a right foot, but not quite in the same international class.

That France team surpassed themselves in Sweden. Little or nothing was expected of them, which seems amazing in retrospect. They had won none

Brian Glanville recalls how the host nation has come so close and yet so far from fulfilling their final dream

of their previous half-dozen games. Just Fontaine, who would end the tournament with the extraordinary booty of 13 goals — even if four were against West Germany in a meaningless third-place match — hardly thought it was worth bringing his boots.

But Raymond Kopa came from Real Madrid, where he had been banished to the right wing and so reluctantly played second fiddle to the mighty Alfredo di Stefano, and excelled on his return to his true role as a deep-lying centre forward.

He supplied the bullets and Fontaine, fast, stocky and forceful, fired them. Paraguay were thrashed 7-3 in the opening game, despite France being 3-2 behind with half an hour left. Defeat against Yugoslavia was followed by victories over Scotland and Northern Ireland in the quarter-finals.

Brazil took a very early lead in the semi-final through Vavá, but Fontaine equalised soon afterwards. A goal by Didi restored Brazil's lead, then Jonquet was hurt and the roof fell in.

West Germany were France's nemesis in 1982 and 1986. Seville, in 1982, was the scene of one of the most atrocious unpunished fouls in the World Cup finals. Patrick Battiston, the France full back, had been on the field as a substitute for only ten minutes, and it was shortly after the hour when he burst through and looked likely to score. Harald Schumacher, the Germany goalkeeper, rushed out and chopped him across the throat with a forearm smash.

Battiston collapsed to the ground. The Spanish referee apparently saw nothing, which was just about feasible. It was unthinkable, however, that his linesman had not seen what

happened. Yet Schumacher stayed on, unpunished even by a yellow card, and the France trainers and Spanish medics, prevented by obtuse security staff from getting on to the field, took so long in doing so that Battiston might even have died.

An unrepentant Schumacher made the sick joke that he would pay Battiston's dentist bill, but subsequently, under a fusillade of criticism, tried clumsily to make belated amends.

At full time, the score was 1-1. Michel Platini's spot kick having equalised Pierre Littbarski's seventeenth-minute goal for Germany. In extra time, France went ahead 3-1 through Marius Trésor and Alain Giresse, but the indomitable Germans caught them and ran out winners 5-4 on penalties.

In the semi-final in 1986, in Guadalajara, France fancied their chances; they had beaten Italy and eliminated Brazil on penalty kicks. But the famous midfield of Platini, Tigana, Giresse and Fernandez could do nothing about West Germany. Andreas Brähme scored after only nine minutes and Rudi Völler got another goal, with almost the last kick.

Now France have broken their semi-final hoodoo and, though Brazil have been favourites from the first, at least they have home advantage. The last time the World Cup was held here, in 1938, Brazil were so confident of beating Italy in Marseille in the semi-finals that they booked all the seats on the only plane back to Paris, dropped their two best forwards, Leonidas and Tim, and lost.

They will not show such hubris this time but, with Blanc absent, the smart money must be on them.



Blanc, who is suspended for the final, cuts a lonely figure yesterday

Bilic bid to cap Pacino warrants production of an Equity card

Aboard TGV 814, Avignon to Paris, Gare de Lyon

A new game to be enjoyed by all the family. Yelling "saarg" and smothering face with hands, as though victim of an acid attack. I've been practising this quite a bit since Wednesday night, when poor old Laurent Blanc got sent off during France's joyous 2-1 semi-final victory over Croatia, but I just can't do it with the same pure essence de jambon achieved by Slaven Bilic. Receiving a cuff to the chin, Bilic's "my eyes, ayeee, my eyes!" was of the sort to make casting directors sit uncomfortably in their seats and scan the ceiling for bugs. How he got away with such Al Pacino overacting beggars belief. But you have to admire the deathless spirit of opportunism that persuaded him to try it. Next time someone stamps on his toe, he'll probably try it again.

Wednesday was a big night in France — although one hears so many reports about "France succumbs to soccer mania" and "France ignores soccer altogether and has its hair done" that I'm honestly unable to tell any more what's true. Evidently, 12 million people watched the France-Italy quarter-final, out of a population of 56 million, but the figure needs to be compared to the ratings for cookery programmes to have any value as a statistic. Meanwhile, what I can report firsthand is that the pavement café in Avignon with the karaoke was still offering singalong facilities on Wednesday evening, but had a telly on as well. And that, after the match, young people drove open-topped cars into the centre and

tooted horns and men with flags used them in a typically Gallic fashion — as a means of introducing themselves to attractive women.

It's part of my toadying nature, perhaps, but I've been keen on the French team from the start and just curse my lazy ignorance that every day I have to read about them in *L'Equipe* with a dictionary. A chambermaid who found me typing in my room at the hotel in Avignon was excited by the idea that an English *Coupe du Monde* visitor ("hooligan!" she said, pointing and laughing) would be bothering with France's game. "Will you support France or Croatia?" she asked in French and I realised to my shame that, despite the plucky, out-of-the-ashes appeal of Cro-



Lilian (Lilian!) just chased down the right (twice) and single-handedly put an end to all that goalmouth faffing. In the café where I watched the game, we veritably pranced and danced for joy at the second goal. "Allez les bleus" and "well done, Lilian," were the only thoughts available to us for quite some time.

Blanc's sending-off was not allowed to ruin the evening, because football celebration doesn't allow for subtle shading. If you wave your flag a

degree or two lower, people don't think you're making a point of it; they think (quite rightly) you're poking their eye out. But for poor old Blanc, hero of the second round and obsessive head-kisser, it was terrible to make him miss the final (the crowning moment of his career) just for being the occasion of a piece of execrable acting. On the bright side, however, it meant the immedi-

ate substitution of a *Times* columnist, luckily not me but Frank Leboeuf. "He's here! He's there! He's tum-tum-tum-tum, Frank Leboeuf, Frank Leboeuf!" I sang, proprietorially. It's an ill wind that doesn't blow a *Times* columnist any good.

But the larger point about the blatant shamming or exaggeration of injury has been raised too often in this tournament by the prospering of cheats.

Personally, I have learnt to doubt the evidence of my own eyes where injury is concerned; too often has my first reaction ("never touched him!") been corrected by examination of the slow-motion replay, on which it can be clearly seen that the offender drew a blackjack from his pocket and copped his foe smartly across the back of the head when he hoped that no one was watching. "He just fell over because he was running too fast!" I object, often, only for it to be proved 100 per cent that the man has broken shins.

But similarly I yell "ouch, ouch! Career-threatening tackle!" only to see the ignored, prone victim finally clamber to his feet, limp for a few yards and then visibly think: "Oh well, better luck next time", and trot off as normal. Whether Bilic went through the motions of having emergency facial repair — well, as they said when President Coolidge died, how can they tell? But there ought to be some sort of punishment for play-acting as bad as that. Put him on Equity wages, or something. That ought to do it.

LYNNE TRUSS

WORLD CUP DIARY

Moroccan referee given final honour

SAID BELQOLA, of Morocco, will referee the World Cup final between France and Brazil in the Stade de France on Sunday. Mark Warren, a policeman from Burton-on-Trent, and Achmat Salie, a wood furniture designer from Cape Town, have been appointed as his assistants.

Belqola, 41, a customs official from Fez, is the first African to take charge of the final. He refereed the Germany versus United States and Argentina versus Croatia games in the group stages without dismissing a player, but booking a total of 12.

Warren, 38, is the first English official to be appointed to a World Cup final since Jack Taylor refereed the Holland-West Germany match in 1974. He has been on the Football League linesmen's list since 1991 and was promoted to the Football League referees' list in May.



Belqola: appointed to referee final

L'Equipe, the French sports daily, has grudgingly acknowledged the achievement of Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, after waging a two-year campaign against his methods. Jérôme Bureau, the *Editor*, wrote yesterday: "We still don't agree with his tactics and selection but, in sport, only the result counts."

Claire Donohoe, personal assistant to Niall Sloane, the BBC's World Cup editor, gazed into her crystal ball before the tournament began and confidently predicted the outcome. "It will be Brazil versus France in the final," the Manchester United fan said, "and I think Brazil will win."

France have maintained their lead at the top of the fair play standings, despite Laurent Blanc's sending off in the semi-final against Croatia. They are ahead of England and Norway. Chile and Cameroon had the worst disciplinary records. Iran were the "cleanest" side, with only three bookings in three games.

Brazilian priests attending an international gathering in Mexico City have exchanged their vestments for the yellow shirts of their national side. They also claimed that victory against Holland in the semi-finals only occurred after intervention by the Virgin of Guadeloupe, the patron saint of Mexico.

RUSSELL KEMPSON

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Liverpool recruit shadow

Wilkinson's... there is more

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مكتبة الأمل

FOOTBALL

Liverpool's new recruits left in shadow by Owen

By DAVID MADDOCK

IF EVER there was a taste of things to come at Anfield, then it was the press conference yesterday to announce Liverpool's first two signings of the summer...

English football's latest messiah. For Evans, the problem is one of perspective. There has been so much hype about Michael, and, to be fair, he has justified some of it with his performances in the World Cup...

It is unthinkable that there is anyone who has not yet heard word of the latest cult to hit the football world - Owenism. You will eat, drink and sleep Michael Owen this season, to steal an advertising phrase.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, accepted as much yesterday. With a weary smile that barely disguised an already thinly worn patience, he raved over the favourite subject of bringing a swift end to the prevaricating. "With respect," he said, "We are not here to talk about young Michael, we are here to talk about our new signings."

The irony was almost painfully amusing. By the time he delivered that terse statement, he had already given the newspaper men present enough choice parables to fill a Bible-sized edition about



Dundee: bemused

because - let's face it - they will want to set him up for a fall. Look at Robbie Fowler. Michael has had one good season. Robbie had three outstanding seasons where he scored goals Michael could only dream about. Then he got a couple of injuries and it just shows you how it can knock you down. But Robbie Fowler will bounce back and he'll be right up there again. Michael has to understand that.

"We will help him to do that. When you listen to him, then he is always offering the idea that the team will come first and that is exactly right. He is not bigger than Liverpool and we will help him to come to terms with all this new-found pressure."

Dundee, the naturalised Germany international forward, was bemused by the press conference yesterday as wave upon wave of questions were asked about his prospective strike partner and not the man new to Anfield. But he had the perfect response. "I can play a bit too, you know," he said. "I am ready for this challenge. There is Owen, Fowler, Riedle, but I am different to them all and I know I can prove that."

Stanton was far more relaxed - and amused - about the whole Owen cult. He has been there, done it, and, for him, the return to Anfield after a near seven-year absence was a natural progression. "I'm too old to get involved with all this hype," he said. "I've seen it before and it's great, but the real business is winning trophies. No hype ever won anything. But I came back to Liverpool because I want to win things and I believe the squad is there to do it. And that includes Michael Owen."

Tottenham Hotspur have been linked with Patrick Kluijvert, the Holland striker who has also been interesting Arsenal. Tottenham, overshadowed by their neighbour's Double success last season, are desperate to sign a proven striker to replace Jürgen Klinsmann. Mehdi Mahdavi, 20, the Iran midfielder player, is also bound for Tottenham, according to Ahmed Abedani, president of Piruzi, his present club.

Southampton invest in teenage striker

DAVE JONES, the Southampton manager, has replaced Kevin Davies, the England Under-21 striker, sold to Blackburn Rovers for £7.5 million, with a teenager who eight months ago was playing for Thomas Cook in the Peterborough Sunday League.

Jones has beaten West Ham United, Leicester City and Derby County to the signature of the King's Lynn striker, Mark Paul, 19, who has signed a three-year deal, which could net the Dr Martens League premier division club £150,000, depending on appearances. Southampton have made a downpayment of £75,000.

Paul must still work his

notice in the administration department of Thomas Cook's headquarters in Peterborough before being able to link up with his new team-mates next week.

He was spotted playing pub football by the Jewson League premier division side, Warboys, last November. Four months later he moved to King's Lynn for £2,000 after scoring ten goals in 12 games.

John Saintry, the Southampton assistant manager, said: "Paul's better off coming to a club like ours because he will get a chance to play if he is ready. We won't hesitate to play him if we think he is good enough, as we proved with Kevin Davies last season."

Wilkinson's lads keen to show there is more than one Owen

THE Michael Owens of the future will be looking to impress when the England Under-18 side bids for glory in the European championship finals in Cyprus later this month.

Owen was a part of the squad that topped England's initial qualifying group and, just months later, he went on to become one of the young stars of the World Cup finals, scoring against Romania and Argentina to become a fully-fledged senior international.

Now another crop of young players under Howard Wilkinson, the under-18 coach and Football Association technical director, are aiming to make their mark.

England will be full of confidence after knocking out France, one of the tournament favourites, 3-1 on aggregate in the two-legged play-off.

The finals are split into two groups of four, with England doing battle with Cyprus on July 19, Ireland on July 21 and Croatia on July 23.

The other section consists of Portugal, Spain, Lithuania and Germany, with the group winners meeting in the final in Larnaka on July 26.

England have included one under-12 international in their squad, Steve Simonsen, the promising Tranmere Rovers goalkeeper, who took part in the end-of-season tournament in Toulon.

There are several players with experience in the FA Carling Premiership, including Matthew Upson, of Arsenal, who was signed for £2 million from Luton Town; Wesley Brown, of Manchester United; Danny Cadamarteri,

of Everton; and Andrew Griffin, of Newcastle United, who was signed from Stoke City for £1 million.

Richard Cooper, of Nottingham Forest, and Jonathan Woodgate, of Leeds United, whose goals destroyed France, are also part of the 18-strong squad.

England are training at the senior squad's headquarters at Burnham Beeches before they fly out to Cyprus next Thursday to continue their preparations for the tournament.

ENGLAND UNDER-18 SQUAD: S Simonsen (Tranmere Rovers), P Robinson (Leeds United), A Griffin (Newcastle United), L Young (Nottingham Forest), M Ball (Aston Villa), W Brown (Manchester United), L Woodgate (Leeds), M Upson (Aston Villa), N Fenton (Manchester City), R Cooper (Nottingham Forest), S Johnson (Coventry City), P Vermaas (Aston Villa), J Percay (Tranmere Rovers), D Dunn (Blackburn Rovers), A Omerod (Millwall), I Matthews (Leeds United), D Cadamarteri (Everton), A Smith (Leeds United)

Schumacher in no mood for free gifts

Kevin Eason hears the former world champion reiterate his desire to challenge for honours

Even if he fails to add the British Grand Prix to his collection of prizes this season, Michael Schumacher's assault on the world championship in the red livery of the Ferrari team will go on for some time yet.

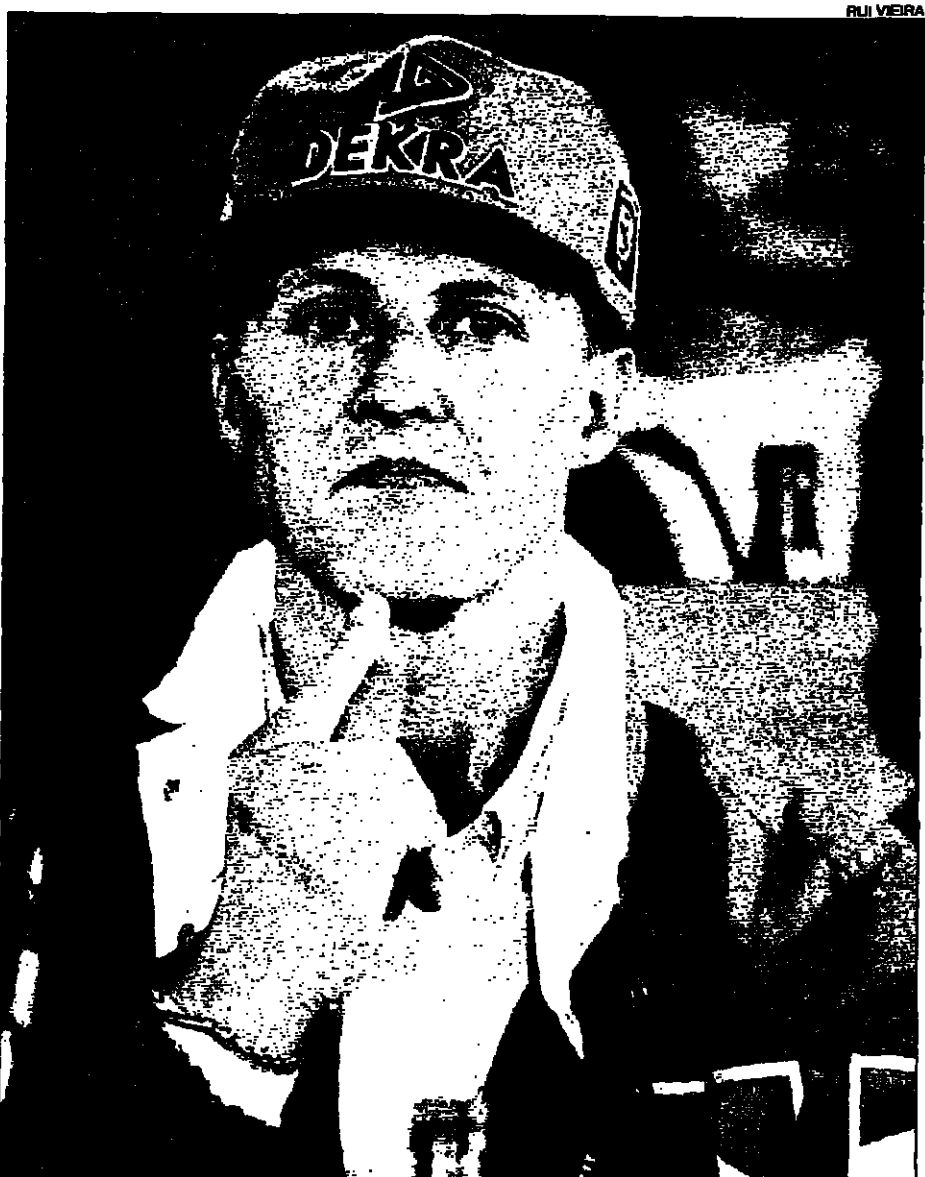
Schumacher is said to be close to a deal that will keep him with the Italian team for another two years. The price could be as much as £50 million but Luca di Montezemolo, the Ferrari chairman, believes that Schumacher's inspirational leadership is worth one of the biggest salaries in sport.

Schumacher confirmed yesterday that negotiations are reaching a climax and, when asked whether he would be staying at Ferrari, he said: "There is good reason that could happen."

Rumours have persisted all season that Schumacher was too impatient for success to wait for Ferrari to improve his car and would opt for a drive at McLaren. But that is probably to misjudge both Schumacher and McLaren. McLaren does not favour a team that revolves around one man, as Ferrari does around the German.

Schumacher underlined yesterday just how undisputed is his position as the team's No 1 driver when the suggestion was put that, if the Ferraris are placed first and second, as they were at the French Grand Prix, he might pull over to reward Eddie Irvine, his team-mate, with a first Formula One victory.

He swatted away the question: "There is no point. It is clear that I am going to go for the championship so I can't be giving away any presents." The comment underlines Irvine's position as Schumacher's "bagman", in this world championship at



Schumacher is close to concluding negotiations that will keep him with Ferrari

least, a role that few drivers in the pitlane today would want to play - and probably yet another deterrent to team managers who had even just a thought of signing Schumacher.

Whether Irvine gets the chance to support his team-mate at Silverstone remains to be seen. Schumacher was in gloomy that his recent dra-

matic progress in the championship would continue at a circuit that should suit the speed and agility of the McLarens. The Ferrari's new Goodyear tyres, which helped him to victory in France, are likely to be less effective here, particularly if the Northamptonshire circuit is, as predicted, shrouded in cool and cloudy weather over the weekend.

If the uncertainty over Schumacher's future looks as though it could be dispelled soon, there are still no clues as to which team will win the services of Jacques Villeneuve, the world champion. Speculation persists that the Canadian will join Craig Pollock, his former manager, at the new British American Racing team (BAR), which has bought out Tyrrell.

Villeneuve admitted yesterday that Frank Williams is pressing him for a quick decision on whether he will stay with the Williams team. The emotional pull to BAR and Pollock is obviously strong, although Villeneuve wants to be reassured that the car will be immediately competitive.

Pollock, BAR's managing director, did not hide the fact that Villeneuve remains his prime target, probably to partner Alex Zanardi, the IndyCar champion, and he has told Villeneuve that the car designed by Adrian Reynard will be strong from the outset next season. "I would obviously love to have Jacques on board," he said. "If I was advising him now, I would tell him it was a huge risk to join a new team, but I can assure him we can give him a package that will be competitive."

Villeneuve is one of three former Silverstone winners in the field who are not confident about their chances of repeat victories. The Canadian, who won at Silverstone last year on his way to the world championship, said his Williams was quicker thanks to aerodynamic improvements but would still be a long way off the pace of the McLarens and Ferraris.

For Damon Hill, whose name has also been linked with a move to BAR, the prospect of victory is as remote as at any time in his grand prix career. He believes that a huge raft of improvements to his Jordan introduced for this weekend could pay dividends, although only to take part in the battle for lower places.

Johnny Herbert, who won when the team-mate of Schumacher at Benetton in 1995, is resigned to a quiet weekend in a Sauber that has been plagued with mechanical problems and poor luck. "I would love to do well at my home grand prix," he said, "but there will be nobody more surprised than me if I won again."

FOR THE RECORD

BOWLS

AVY NORTHFIELD: Scottish women's national championship: First round: C Condy (Coventry) vs S Clark (Dumfries) 1-0; D Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; E Houston (Edinburgh) 1-0; F Beattie (Coventry) 2-1; G Whelan (Whites) 2-1; H Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; I Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; J Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; K Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; L Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; M Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; N Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; O Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; P Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; Q Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; R Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; S Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; T Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; U Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; V Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; W Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; X Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; Y Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1; Z Macleod (Blackburn) 2-1.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Third day of four: Surrey: Warwickshire 336 (T Frost 115, M Studd 60) and 114-2; Worcestershire 472-8 (C J Wilson 116, A Hefcote 119, R C Dwyer 77). Second day of three: The Oval: Surrey 352-4 (A Jones 119, C Greenwood 5-8) and 114-2; Warwickshire 363-6 (C A Chapman 100 not out, G M Fallow 78) and 107-2 (Fallow 80 not out, Hampshire 280 (M Gurnsey 81, S Swales 59, Canterbury 208 (C D Walsh 122, M Smith 5-8) and 143-2 (N J Uzzell 105 not out, M E Harvey 93 not out, S P Tisdall 50). Hampshire: Derbyshire 386-6 (S Shubbings 88, I D Birchwell 58) and 169-2; Middlesex 312-4 (D J Goodall 146, D C Nash 127).

GLIDING

GRANDOPEN, Cambridge: 15m class national championships (1000m poly, one completion of 471, M Young (Norwich) 78.49h, 69.0pts, 2, H Peacock (L58) 99.3m, 597; total 3, E Dowdall (ASK27) 3, Rennie (J Fisher) 60, 10 in 55.98.

HOCCY

DUNDEE: European Nations Cup qualifiers: Scotland 1 Russia 2, Denmark 7 Ukraine 1, Position: 1, Russia, 2, Switzerland, 3, Denmark, 4, Scotland.

OTHER SPORT

BOVES STORES CHALLENGE: Scarborough free day: Tm Race International 91 v The Yorkshiremen.

FOOTBALL: Club match: Boreham Wood v Arsenal (7:30). Football: European Nations Cup qualifiers: (In Dundee), Ukraine v Switzerland (12:30); Scotland v Denmark (2:00). Football: Club match: Boreham Wood v Arsenal (7:30). Football: European Nations Cup qualifiers: (In Dundee), Ukraine v Switzerland (12:30); Scotland v Denmark (2:00). Football: Club match: Boreham Wood v Arsenal (7:30). Football: European Nations Cup qualifiers: (In Dundee), Ukraine v Switzerland (12:30); Scotland v Denmark (2:00).

GOLF

WATERLOO, Belgium: European men's youth team championship qualifiers: First round: England (G Storm 68, P Rowe 62), Donald 71, K Farlie 72, S Dymov 74, M Hilton 78, 79; Wales (C Williams 70, N Matthews 74, M Pilkington 74, D Pugh 74, M Palmer 78, A Smith 78, 79; Ireland 74; Scotland 74; Denmark 74; France 74; Germany 74; Austria 74; Norway 74; Czech Republic 74; Switzerland 74; Sweden 74; Spain 74; Portugal 74; Greece 74; Turkey 74; Cyprus 74; Armenia 74; Georgia 74; Azerbaijan 74; Kazakhstan 74; Uzbekistan 74; Kyrgyzstan 74; Tajikistan 74; Turkmenistan 74; Belarus 74; Moldova 74; Ukraine 74; Russia 74; Poland 74; Czech Republic 74; Slovakia 74; Hungary 74; Croatia 74; Slovenia 74; Bosnia and Herzegovina 74; Serbia 74; Montenegro 74; Macedonia 74; Albania 74; Bulgaria 74; Romania 74; Greece 74; Turkey 74; Cyprus 74; Armenia 74; Georgia 74; Azerbaijan 74; Kazakhstan 74; Uzbekistan 74; Kyrgyzstan 74; Tajikistan 74; Turkmenistan 74; Belarus 74; Moldova 74; Ukraine 74; Russia 74; Poland 74; 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Roche and Kelly happy to watch from sidelines this time

Dublin set fair as Tour salutes Irish greats

FROM JEREMY WHITTLE IN DUBLIN

WHEN Sean Kelly and Stephen Roche were at the height of their powers as cyclists in the late 1980s, Ireland held its breath as the pair challenged for victory in the Tour de France.

hands at keeping the race convoy, which can amount to more than 6,000 people and 2,000 vehicles, on the move, and at transporting tons of equipment from city centre to mountain top.



Tomorrow: full guide to the Tour de France

"Wherever the Tour de France goes it's a huge international success," Roche said. "The visit to Ireland will be good for tourism but it will also show that the country is very much a part of Europe."

The arrival of the Tour has failed to find favour with every Dublin resident. Declan Martin, the director of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, has complained to the organisers of the Tour about road closures, which, he says, will affect retailers in the capital.

While the prologue stage tomorrow will see the race favourites strike their first blows, the circuit race through the Wicklow Mountains on Sunday pays tribute to Roche, the former Dublin paper boy, and the route on Monday, south from Enniscorthy to Cork, takes the field through Sean Kelly Square, in Kelly's home town of Carrick on Suir.

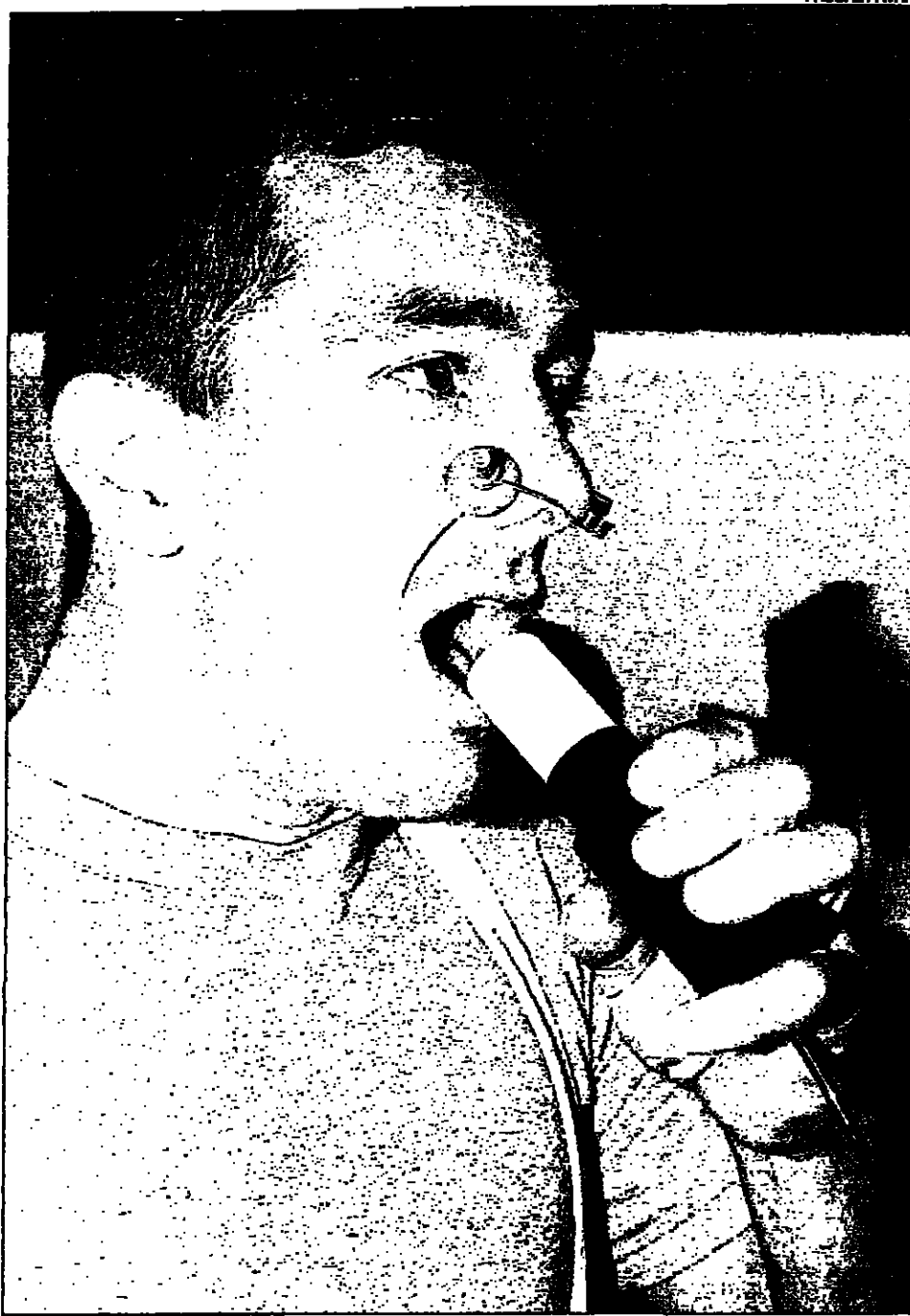
Roche, who matched the achievement of the great Eddy Merckx with an historic triple crown of victories in 1987 — the Tour, the Giro d'Italia and the world championship — will watch the race pass close to his home in Dundrum on Sunday.

"I don't mind that the race is coming to Dublin after I retired," Roche said. "I'm just proud that it's coming to Ireland at all. But I'll feel emotional when it leaves Dublin and goes through Dundrum."

"Ten years ago, Kelly and Roche had between them won most of the leading races in Europe, including the Tours of France, Italy and Spain."

"There's no doubt that 1987 was the high point of my career," Roche said. "But there were plenty of other good times too, such as winning Paris-Nice and coming back to top form late in my career."

Three knee operations, after a heavy fall while he was racing on the track, made it impossible for Roche to capitalise on his success.



Breath test: Chris Boardman, the British cyclist, blows into a tester during a medical check-up yesterday in preparation for the start of the Tour de France tomorrow

emotional when it leaves Dublin and goes through Dundrum."

"Those operations would have been enough to finish most careers," Roche said. "But I still had what it took — the head for racing, the ability to recover and the strength."

Even so, it took five years for Roche to recapture his best form, and it was not until 1992 that he again made headlines in the Tour de France, with a memorable stage win in the Massif Central.

"It was important to finish my career on a high note," Roche said. "I needed to prove a point to other people and to do it for myself."

The stoic Kelly, four times winner of the Tour's coveted points classification, enjoyed robust good health throughout his career, although he broke his collarbone more than once.

He usually found the Tour's mountain stages a severe test and, on the one occasion that he wore the leaders' yellow jersey, he only held it for one day as the combination of searing heat and steep gradients in the French Pyrenees overcame him.

Kelly agreed that the Tour's passage through Ireland is certain to be greeted everywhere by huge and enthusiastic crowds, but like Roche, is relieved that he no longer has to bear the pressure of Irish expectation.

"It would have been nice if the Tour had come when I was racing," Kelly said, "but it would have been difficult. There would have been huge demands made of me."

He added: "Everyone wants you on an occasion like that — everyone who's anything to do with it."

He added the BBC camera crew.

When we first met Jane McDonald on the cruise ship *The Galazy*, she was a game but struggling singer from Yorkshire with a less than impressive CV. But her determination to conquer stage fright and win over audiences made her not only a star of the series *The Cruise* but took her career into unexpected directions. She got herself an agent, made a recording deal and has even presented *The National Lottery Draw*, a highlight in anybody's career. Tonight we witness another pinnacle as she marries Henrik, the Danish marine engineer she met while he was doing maintenance work on *The Galazy*. The wedding, of the week, if not perhaps the century, takes place on the Caribbean island of St Thomas and is attended by relatives from England and Denmark — oh, and a BBC camera crew.

The Car Show Channel 5, 8.00pm

It was said of motoring correspondents that they were so "in touch" to carmakers that the only thing they criticised on a road test was the ashtray. It was, of course, an outrageous slur, though in assessing the new Mazda MX6 Tristram Payne gives it unwitting substance. He thinks the car is pretty good, a nippy vehicle with crisp handling and "lovely retro-style air vents". Even the styling, which he starts by dismissing as dull, grows on him. But the clock is something else. It is the "cheapest, nastiest clock I have ever seen in a car". You cannot say fairer than that. Many viewers may think the Mazda is overpriced anyway and turn with relief to the programme's more useful items, such as a hard-nosed guide to when, and by what means, to sell second-hand. Mariella Frostrup again joins Payne as co-presenter.

The Irish Play Radio 4, 11.30am

This comedy by Michael Butt is the tale of Jake Parsons, a forgotten playwright, famous in the 1970s, but now living on vodka for breakfast. A journalist arrives to interview Jake (Freddie Jones) about his halcyon days and this, plus the fact that Irish plays seem to be fashionable, sparks him to life. One of his unperformed plays, *The Witch of Dagenham*, becomes *The Witch of Tralee* and Jake reinvents himself as an Irish playwright, with a new name, an Irish lilt and a beard. But Jake's ego is his undoing, triggered when Brid (Dillie Keane), an actress rehearsing the new play, sees a similarity between the play and the work of a certain Jake Parsons, clearly not as forgotten as Jake had hoped.

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TELEVISION CHOICE Cruising down the aisle

Cruise Special: Jane Ties the Knot BBC1, 8.15pm

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Cameras follow the wedding of Jane McDonald in the Caribbean (BBC1, 8.15pm)

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7.00am Chris Evans 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbott 4.00 Robin Davies 7.00am Harry Bowles of Steel 11.00 Jarvey Lee Grace 2.00am Howard Pearce

TALK RADIO

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RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Hols (Bartok); Bach (Prelude and Fugue); Tchaikovsky (Eugene Onegin, excerpts) 9.00 Masterworks. Introduced by Peter Hoadley. Includes Mozart (Overture: Die Zauberflöte); Scarlatti (Sonatas in D, K443; in D minor, K6; in G major, K159); Albinetti (A Legend of the Sierras); Tippett (The Heart's Assurance); Nielsen (Symphony No 5) 10.30 Artist of the Week: John Williams. Includes the story of the New York Philharmonic's move from Carnegie Hall to a specially built new home in the city's Lincoln Centre 12.00 Composer of the Week: Beethoven and Tallis 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. The best of eight programmes of Mozart string quartets, broadcast at this year's City of London Festival. Chilingirian Quartet, Louise Williams, viola, Mozart (String Quartet in F, K158; String Quintet in G minor, K516) 2.00 The BBC Archiver: Jennifer Vyvyan. Gordon Stewart presents archive recordings ranging from Handel to Britten and including some 19th-century songs 4.00 Music Restored (r)

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FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 883, 908. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.56am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. John McLennan.

have satellite dishes, in which case they already know. The cliffhanger is a cunning device for keeping up audience interest while a show takes a break, though anybody coming to *Friends* for the first time will be baffled. Perhaps that is why British sitcoms tend not to leave loose ends. No prior knowledge is required to savour the joke about Monica (Courteney Cox) being snubbed by a jellyfish during the beach holiday. The gallant Chandler (Matthew Perry) comes to her rescue...

South Park Channel 4, 11.40pm

The latest animated import from the United States is a very run project and offensive enough to merit its late slot. Set in small-town Colorado, it features four eight-year-olds notable for their streetwise and coarse language. One keeps vomiting, another keeps breaking wind. There is a chef who sings bawdy songs and a schoolteacher with a glove puppet. Alien invasions, real and imagined, loom large in the everyday life of *South Park*. Among acts attributed to the visitors from space in this opening episode are the giving to one of the boys an opening episode, kidnapping another's younger brother and turning cows inside out. The visual style is prettier than the content, which may be deliberate. Gloriously subversive or just crude? More than many shows, this one is likely to be an acquired taste. Peter Warlock

RADIO CHOICE

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URGENT APPEAL Help cut out suffering. Cut out this coupon. No one likes to see pictures of starving children. But for thousands of children (and adults) in Southern Sudan this is the reality. A million people are facing starvation. You can make a difference. As you read this the International Red Cross is delivering emergency aid to the heart of the disaster zone. Yes I want to help. Name Address Postcode Tel. Please spend my donation in Sudan. Please call now with your credit card donation. 0345 315 315 British Red Cross



Jan Ulrich, of Germany, the Tour champion, arrives in Dublin yesterday

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

KNITLES (c) Two lengths of rope yarn, twisted together and the end rubbed smooth for "pointing", ie, working into a stiff cone-shaped point. Usually two yarns are twisted, but the trick can also be done with one yarn, split.

MORDEIT (b) Literally "crushed in". A musical device whereby an additional note, either above or below the main note, is forced in with no time lapse. The mordent is termed "upper" or "lower", according to its relation with the main note.

GAY LUSSAC (c) In France 1778-1850, a chemist. His father was a chemist. He was involved in the French Revolution, but Gay got into the Ecole Polytechnique and was "spotted" by Berthollet. His early work was showing the properties of gases when unaffected by water vapour. His greatest achievement was the law of volumes of combinations of gases.

CLEEK (c) In the days before matched sets of golf clubs, the deck was an iron. It was probably the equivalent to a No 2 or No 3 in loft, but it had a narrow club head, making it especially suitable for hitting out of light rough.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qf7 and the threats against e8 and g7 leave Black completely helpless, eg, 1... Rxf7; 2. Rxe8.

Albert...

Albert Square's naturalism puts us all in a tiff

I have to admit that I don't watch Eastenders (BBC1) very often. Soaps are addictive, but unlike, say, cigarettes, chocolate or crack cocaine, once you break the habit it is remarkably easy to live without them.

However, last night's double episode came highly recommended and was part of Albert Square's build-up to the World Cup Final, so I decided to make a return visit.

It was a marvel of construction - short scenes bowling swiftly along with interlocking plot-lines and carefully modulated peaks and troughs of tension, comedy and drama. Given the number and variety of characters, the standard of acting is remarkably high, often positively compelling.

And yet there is hardly a single likeable character among the lot of them. They are, as they would probably be the first to admit, a bunch of toerags. They are lazy, selfish, insensitive, morose, self-indulgent, incompetent, drunk, provocative, brutish or just plain crooked (particularly the men) and their main occupation seems to be being unpleasant to each other in one or more of a variety of ways.

Last night's episode was a remorseless progress towards Tiffany's decision to leave Grant. Tiffany is one of the few characters who is vaguely pleasant and she was trying very hard to make her shaven-scalped hard-man happy. Though even she is ludicrously stupid in her belief that a jealous macho introvert is going to relish her training to work as a masseuse.

Grant's brooding, self-pitying moroseness ran through the programme like a leitmotif, or rather heavy-motif. Every time the plot attempted to escape into some gentler form of unpleasantness, his ugly mug would reappear failing to join the Territorial Army, glowering into a pint or taking it

out on the snooker balls. Brother Phil persuaded him to participate in his birthday treat, a meal at the Italian restaurant where he is jealous of the cheesily flirtatious waiters, but this was merely a pretext to set up the final disastrous confrontation and Tiffany's long-overdue departure.

I have no idea what peculiar streak in the British psyche makes us wallow in the self-inflicted miseries of these appalling creatures. The show prides itself on its naturalism, and doubtless each character and story line is firmly rooted in the reality of working-class experience. What is terrifying is the possibility that this selection of inadequates is representative. If so we are in deep trouble.



REVIEW Paul Hoggart

better. Imogen's Face (ITV) continued with Andrea Newman's script conscientiously trying everyone in knots, and making the most comprehensive possible mess of their emotional lives.

Unconsciously driven by her years of sibling rivalry, and without realising exactly why she has done it, plain(fish) Amanda has betrayed her stunningly beautiful sister Imogen's affair to Imogen's

handsome doctor husband, Ben. When Ben comes to seek the truth, Amanda impulsively pulls him down on the shag-pile, as it were. Having tried and failed to become pregnant by her carpenter boy-friend, Steve, Amanda, of course, conceives after her one furtive grapple with Ben. She then tells Steve what she has done. He looks hurt and leaves her. The climax, however, came when Imogen told Ben that she could not give up her infatuation with the village Lothario, Cavan, he of the three divorces, five children and string of broken affairs. "I don't love the twins any less because there are two of them," she protests. "I'll be very discreet." Ben is expected to accept this outrageous proposal, in the manner of some 18th-century French aristocrat working out a modus vivendi for his arranged marriage. This is an extraordinarily old-

fashioned type of story, which could have been written at almost any epoch in human history, and which is based on a few very simple premises. First, there is the idea that nice guys may make safe marriage partners, but that when it comes to sexual passion, they just don't hit the spot.

Then there is the idea that women are all the prey to passions beyond their control and can be swept off to the ruin of carefully constructed lives in a fug of pheromonal ecstasy. Finally there is the idea that most guys just can't cope with this and will crumple like leaves of wet lettuce. It is entertaining enough, in a silly melodramatic sort of way, but I can't help feeling that what these women need is a short sharp dose of Grant Mitchell. That should make them sort their priorities out. Meanwhile Fay Weldon's Big Women continue their history of

modern feminism by continuing to boss each other around and be appallingly self-righteous, as they generate enough anger and hostility to blast the modern women into their liberated future. Their unpleasantness is exceeded only by the perfidy, deceit and bullying of their monstrous men-folk.

Fay Weldon can be an unusually sharp satirist and her angle on women's issues, though often deliberately provocative, is refreshingly individual and unexpected. All social and political movements need such commentators: they short circuit dogma and stir up debate about fundamental issues. But apparently she wrote this series in something of a hurry, and although it is crammed with potentially interesting situations, the women all speak to each other in slogans and statements of personal philosophy. At the moment it has all the narrative nuance of a Superman comic.

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6.00am Business Breakfast (9805)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (70039)

9.00 All Over the Shop (3167942)

9.20 Kilroy (3445720)

10.00 Meet the Challenge (8068331)

10.25 Style Challenge Classics (4165120)

10.55 Short Change (1714045)

11.00 News (7) (5254958)

11.05 Pole to Pole Michael Palin embarks on an epic expedition from the north to the south pole. The first programme sees him taking a variety of vehicles through Russia, Norway and Finland (7) (6291774)

11.55 News (7) regional news and weather (6395590)

12.00 Every Second Counts (7) (73565)

12.30pm Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7) (80738)

1.00 News (7) and weather (73126)

1.30 Regional News (7) (1508565)

1.40 Neighbours (7) (4957519)

2.05 Perry Mason: The Case of the Shrouding Star The lawyer defends a film star accused of murdering a chat show host on live TV (7) (8119126)

3.35 Noddy (7) (7182861) 3.45 Playdays (7) (6551720) 4.05 Popeye (2654836) 4.10 Bailey Kipper's POV (7) (941858) 4.35 The Mask (7) (3222039) 5.00 Newsround Euro-Stars! (7) (3170478) 5.10 Record Breakers (7) (6848169)

5.35 Neighbours (7) (7) (905768)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (7) and weather (403)

6.30 Regional News (7) (855)

7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook EastEnders' Pam Si Clement and Patsy Palmer challenge chefs Nick Naim and Paul Rankin to create a meal from mystery ingredients (7) (1671)

7.30 Top of the Pops Jo Whalley introduces videos and live performances of all the latest chart sounds (7) (869)

8.00 EastEnders Romance is in the air for Roy and Pat (7) (429519)

8.15 Cruise Special: Jane Fonda Ties the Knot Cameras capture the excitement as Jane McDonald star of The Cruise and her Danish fiance Henrik Brinxen get married in style on the Caribbean island of St Thomas (7) (150294)

9.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (413039)

9.05 Nine O'Clock News (7) and weather (752)

9.35 Terminator II: Judgment Day (1991) Arnold Schwarzenegger reprises his 1984 role as the gun-toting android, this time seting out to protect the future saviour of the human race from a rival Terminator. Directed by James Cameron (7) (5909229)

12.00 Dr Terror's House of Horrors (1965) with Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee, Donald Sutherland, Roy Castle and Bernard Lee. A mysterious doctor, who turns out to be Death himself, reveals the fortunes of five men on a train. Directed by Freddie Francis (925237)

1.35asa Weather (689265)

1.40 BBC News 24

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6.00am Controlling Crowds?

Psychology of crowd behaviour (8629687)

7.00 Teletubbs (7) (1994768) 7.25 Dink, the Little Dinosaur (1079403) 7.50 Get Your Own Back (7) (4833923) 8.15 Wally Fog (2673958) 8.30 Spot (9774439) 8.45 The Record (2271126) 9.10 Hawkeye (3545478) 9.50 Cartoon (6466381) 10.00 Teletubbs (26720) 10.30 The Wild Bush Budge (7) (1819655)

11.00 International Golf Steve Rider introduces live coverage of the penultimate round of the Loch Lomond World Invitational in Scotland. Commentary by Peter Allis, Alex Hay, Mike Hughesdon, Beverley Lewis and Dougie Donnelly (24942)

12.30pm Working Lunch (90720) 1.00 Noble Thoughts (7) (4520294) 1.10 A Passion for Angling, Chris Yates and Bob James go fishing for perch, roach and bazeil in the Hampshire Avon (7) (6088229)

2.00 International Golf Steve Rider introduces further live coverage from Loch Lomond (5077045)

6.00 The Simpsons Aunt Selma causes consternation by announcing her engagement to Sideways Bob (383403)

6.25 Star Trek (7) (300590)

7.15 Lost in Space Sci-fi enthusiasts explain the appeal of Blake's 7. Last in series (7) (406768)

7.30 Quantum Leaps The discovery of liquid crystals (7) (361)

8.00 Wilderness Walks Broadcaster and walker Lesley Ridchoe climbs Macgillycuddy's Reeks in County Kerry (7) (1861)

8.30 Gardeners' World with Alan Titchmarsh. What does a Sri Lankan grow in her Staffordshire cottage garden? Plus: seasonal tips on saving water (7) (4768)

9.00 Small Sacrifices Conclusion of the hard-hitting true-life drama, with Fariha Fawcett and John Shea (7) (22) (98611)

10.30 Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (823855)

10.35 Newswight (7) (410720)

11.20 Lost in France Carol and Grant take cover as Terry is completely overcome by football mania (7) (256774)

11.35 No Smoking (1993) Second part of this French reworking of Alan Ayckbourn's Intimate Exchanges, with Sabine Azema and Pascal Arnold. Directed by Alain Resnais. In French with English subtitles. (2/2) (18422836)

1.55am Space: Above and Beyond (7) (7) (215968)

2.40-2.45 Weather (2529237)

3.00-5.00 Learning Zone: GCSE Bitesize Revision: German 1 (94817)

6.00am GMTV (1444107)

9.25 This Morning (7) (6706298)

9.30 Vanessa (7) (1762310)

10.10 This Morning (7) (3461132)

12.15pm HTV News (7) (2915010)

12.30 News (7) and weather (90774)

1.00 Surprise Chefs (82934)

1.30 Twigg's LA Lifestyle (99046)

2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (2978749)

2.45 WALKS: What's My Line? (201958)

2.45 Grand Calendar (201958)

3.15 News (7) (1781887)

3.20 Regional News (1608300)

3.25 Tots TV (7) (899923) 3.35 Big Bag (7095381) 3.50 Animal Stories (2535251) 3.55 Frankie Stein's Robot (7) (6575300) 4.15 Sabrina the Teenage Witch (7) (9362497) 4.40 Get Wet (7) (4012720)

5.10 A Country Practice (5712213)

5.40 News (7) and weather (977590)

6.00 Catchphrase (387229)

6.25 WALKS: Wales Tonight (495823)

6.25 HTV Weather (822497)

7.30 The West Tonight (923)

7.00 Take Your Pick (7) (3038)

7.30 Coronation Street Rita is still suffering; and Jim rejects Liz (7) (107)

8.00 The Bill: Bang A routine arrest could turn into a matter of life and death for Boyden. With Tony Calaghan and Richard Hawley (7) (5687)

8.30 Kavanagh QC: True Commitment John Thaw stars as one of Britain's leading advocates who is told conflicting stories by a man and his girlfriend about the murder of a neo-fascist (7) (55132)

10.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (7) (537958)

10.05 News at Ten (7) and weather (395294)

10.35 HTV News (7) and weather (533720)

10.45 WALKS: Secret of Success (376381)

10.45 The Talent Trail (376381)

11.15 The Drew Carey Show Comedy series featuring Drew Carey as an average single guy struggling to fulfill his financial and romantic dreams (27836)

11.40 Renegade: South of 98 Reno returns to the innercity neighbourhood where he served as a rookie cop to capture a gang member wanted for murder (310671)

12.50am Nash Bridges (7) (7) (358986)

1.40 Club@vision (3054049)

2.25 War of the Worlds (7) (5551633)

3.15 We Can Work It Out (7) (72817)

3.45 E's Night Party (7) (1655430)

4.10 Coach: Working Girl (7) (45891053)

4.30 TV Nightscene (83904)

5.00 Coronation Street (7) (7) (37237)

5.30 News (43492)

As HTV West except:

1.00pm Special Sabes (68294)

1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (4332229)

2.45-3.15 Coping with Families (201958)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5712213)

6.00 Now and Then (387229)

6.25-7.00 Central News (495923)

10.45 FILM: The Silence of the Lambs (1919671)

12.55am Beyond Reality (7369965)

1.34 Club@vision (7595558)

2.20 Raising Stewie (6006237)

3.20 World Football (1981324)

3.50 Vanessa (4748904)

4.25 Central Jobfinder '98 (2102224)

5.20 Asian Eye (8697121)

As HTV West except:

12.15pm Westcountry News (2915010)

12.27-12.30 Illuminations (4383774)

1.00 On Foot (68294)

1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (4332229)

2.45-3.15 Westcountry Update (201958)

5.10-5.40 Catchphrase (5712213)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (30215)

10.45 FILM: Blue Thunder (18206519)

As HTV West except:

12.15-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (2915010)

1.00 Shortland Street (5712213)

1.27 Crimestoppers (99005010)

1.30 Hikestead '98 (3036720)

3.10-3.15 The Antiques Trail (4879805)

5.10-5.40 Catchphrase (5712213)

6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (30215)

10.40 The Football Club (507519)

11.10 Members Only (107872)

11.40 Midnight Caller (310671)

5.00am FreeScreen (37237)

As HTV West except:

12.15pm Anglia Air Watch (4387590) 1.00 Hope and Gloria (68294) 1.30 Hikestead '98 (3193768) 2.45-3.15 Craven's Collectables (96316) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5712213) 5.50-6.00 Anglia Weather (937759) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (495923) 10.34 Anglia Air Watch (10381) 10.45 The Antiques Trail (4879805) 11.15 FILM: Strays (923855)

As HTV West except:

7.00am The Big Breakfast (63749)

9.00 FILM: Bond Street (38565) 11.00 On the Road to the Islands (77) 11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (855) 12.00pm Rialto Lane (62403) 12.30 Sesame Street (96316) 1.00 Shark Mouth (421842) 1.15 Tom's Yards (4213487) 1.30 Australia Wild (4652045) 1.55 Racing from York (9492300) 3.50 Fifteen-to-One (907701) 4.30 Countdown (720) 5.00 5 Pump (7045) 5.30 Pat Rescues (300) 6.00 Newydd (6741403) 6.10 Home (236127) 7.00 Pabot y Cwm (214229) 7.25 Portuguese (419453) 8.00 Estabodog (419453) 8.30 The Farm Street Gang (6829129) 8.50 The Farm Street Gang (6829129) 9.30 Newsday (9633) 9.00 Friends (1300) 9.30 Friends (80792) 10.00 Brookside (473519) 10.30 So Graham Norton (421838) 11.15 Babylon 5 (956107) 12.10am King of the Hill (8520492) 12.40 FILM: Once Upon a Time in China (21892527) 3.10 FILM: The Revenge of Frankenstein (973817) 4.50 Diwedd (8970411)

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MOTOR RACING 49

Schumacher likely to cash in on eve of Silverstone

SPORT

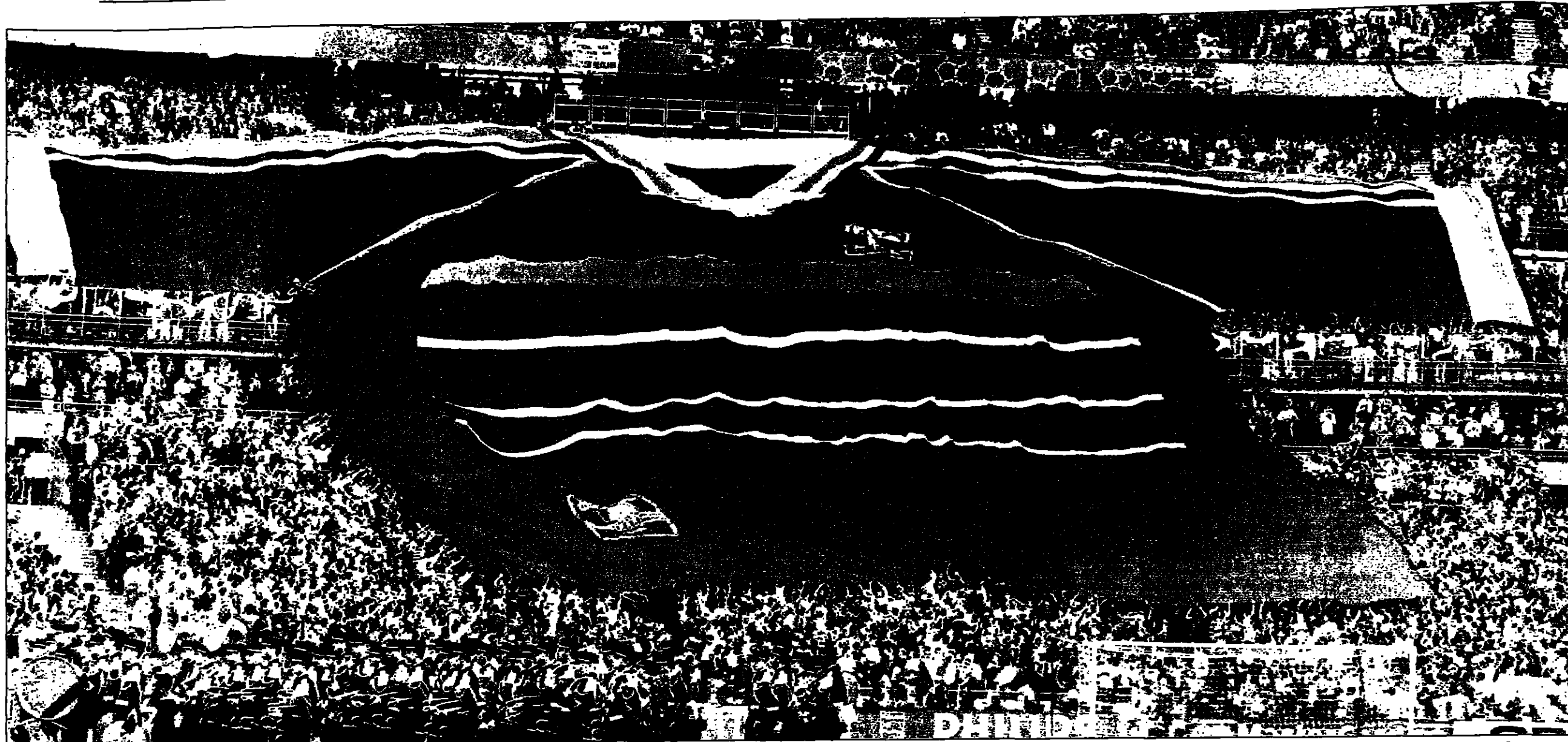
TOMORROW

Danny Baker on the World Cup ball, hair loss and sliding doors



FRIDAY JULY 10 1998

France defender in no mood for forgiveness as suspension from final is upheld



Putting their shirt on it: France is seemingly at fever pitch and praying for victory at the Stade de France on Sunday after their national team's success in reaching their first World Cup final. Photograph: Desmond Boylan

Silver lining fails to lift Blanc cloud

FIFA, the governing body of world football, last night attempted to draw a line under the most controversial and poignant incident of this World Cup so far when they announced that Laurent Blanc, the France sweeper who was sent off in his country's semi-final victory over Croatia on Wednesday, would be punished with a two-match ban, not the one-match sanction most had expected.

recalled the revelries of the night before, there was still some hope that Blanc's dismissal for pushing Slaven Bilic, the Croatia defender, in the face might be rescinded and that he might be cleared to play in his country's first appearance in a World Cup final on Sunday.

As the day wore on, however, it soon became evident that, even though Bilic appeared to have exaggerated the effect of Blanc's raised hand, Fifa were determined to stand by the decision of José Garcia-Aranda, the Spanish referee, to show the red card to the man who would have shouldered much of the responsibility for trying to nullify the formidable forwards of Brazil in the Stade de France.

France was consumed by the pain of Blanc and the complicity of Bilic. The Croat, who plays his club football for Everton, had already had one fierce argument in the penalty area with Emmanuel Petit, the France midfielder player, when he tangled with Blanc, the Barcelona sweeper, in the 74th minute. Bilic recoiled in exaggerated pain and the referee sent off Blanc.

As the Professional Footballers' Association criticised Bilic yesterday and accused him of engineering Blanc's dismissal, Bilic attempted to defend himself. "I did not get him sent off," he said. "He touched me in the face and, technically, that is an offence and the referee saw it. I am not happy that he is going to miss the final but if you do something like that, you are going to get punished."

automatic and will apply for the World Cup final just as it would for any other game." That the punishment was later extended to two matches seems particularly harsh on Blanc, one of the most gentlemanly players in the France side and one of those most responsible for their success in this competition.

departing from his resolute defending, it was his goal five minutes from the end of extra time that took France past Paraguay in the second round and his penalty that helped his team to squeeze past Italy in the shoot-out at the end of their quarter-final. No wonder the country united in pity for him. "We are all thinking of Blanc," one of the headlines in

getting me sent off. He had grabbed hold of me and it should really have been a free kick to us. At the final whistle, he came over to me on the touchline to apologise, but that just made it even worse. I knew then that he had intended everything he did. That one gesture from him made it even harder for me to live with it all.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

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No 1454

- ACROSS**
- 8 Allow to finish speaking (4,3)
 - 9 Prehistoric stone circle (5)
 - 10 Bright red: cinnamon (9)
 - 11 Overweight (3)
 - 12 Position: path of point (maths) (5)
 - 14 Shake with fear (7)
 - 15 (Stark, staring) mad (7)
 - 17 Old immigrant: modern German (5)
 - 19 Healthy: a convulsion (3)
 - 20 Electricity producer (9)
 - 22 Inner sleeve: ship (5)
 - 23 Hermit (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Scooping tool (6)
 - 2 Animal's den (4)
 - 3 Paris striptease theatre (6-7)
 - 4 Undeviating (6)
 - 5 Flabbergasted (1,3)
 - 6 Tobacco-powder holder (8)
 - 7 Get comfy: Ribblesdale town (6)
 - 13 Faithful (8)
 - 15 Flummox (6)
 - 16 (Military) guard (6)
 - 18 Anxiety: the irritating get on one's (6)
 - 21 Solicit (for business) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1453

ACROSS: 1 Obdurate 5 Deem 8 Twain 9 Reflect 11 May 12 Infertile 13 Nudist 15 Cyclic 18 Potentate 19 Hut 20 Offbeat 21 Avoid 22 Fall 23 Istanbul

DOWN: 1 Ottoman 2 Diary 3 Renaissance 4 Thrift 6 Ezekiel 7 Merre 10 Forsythe Saga 14 Duffell 16 Citadel 17 Cactus 18 Proof 19 H-bomb

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Blanc's misfortune is Leboeuf's World Cup dream come true

As France sighed and the head of Laurent Blanc slumped forward on to his chest and then turned upwards to look at the night sky in disbelief and despair, the heart of one of the men sitting on the substitutes' bench pounded with joy. The red card for Blanc meant a gigantic green light for Frank Leboeuf.

Oliver Holt finds the France and Chelsea defender grateful for his unexpected chance to take on Brazil

The Chelsea centre back, known for his shaven head, his cultured style and his rare ability to turn defence into attack with raking 50-yard passes, had played just once in this tournament before Wednesday night and that in the relatively meaningless qualifying group match against Denmark. He played then only because others needed to rest.

rather than the brute strength that he encounters week-in and week-out in the FA Carling Premiership. He may prove to be the ideal defender to combat the extravagant skills of Ronaldo.

play. That has to be your reaction because in football things can happen so quickly. "It will be one of the happiest moments of my life when I walk out on to the pitch at the Stade de France. I did not speak to Laurent in the dressing-room after the game. Sometimes it is better to be silent. What could I have said to him? I was sad for him but happy for myself.



Leboeuf watches from the bench as France qualify for the World Cup final by beating Croatia on Wednesday

expect to play in a great game but the referee stops you. It nearly happened to me on a pre-World Cup tour in Morocco. If I had been sent off, I might have missed the tournament, but I stayed on. I was lucky."

If Leboeuf's opportunity came as a shock to most of the French nation, who found time to mourn Blanc's absence even at the height of their elation over their victory, the Frenchman who was brought to Stamford Bridge by Roud Gullit two seasons ago and lives in a mansion in Putney said that he had had some advance warning of what was going to happen.

"I think I will find it hard to sleep over the next couple of nights. I will need some tablets when I go to bed or I will just lie awake with the excitement of it all. "It is amazing what has happened to me since I joined Chelsea. I am just very pleased with myself that I made the right decision when I came to London."

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES

SUDAN EMERGENCY APPEAL

Over one million people in southern Sudan are facing the real threat of starvation. The war has forced people from their homes and land and two years of drought have devastated crops. Médecins Sans Frontières medical teams are running nutrition centres in the worst-affected areas, feeding the most vulnerable, especially children and their mothers. Malnourished people need special feeding mixes, containing vital nutrients. Our teams care for the most severe cases around the clock. MSF is also providing seeds to help people provide for themselves in future. The only long-term solution to the southern Sudan tragedy is peace. But we can't sit back and wait - people need your help now.

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